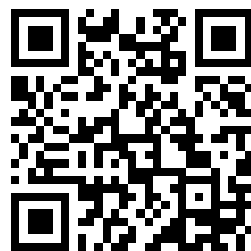

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**HISTORY OF THE EAST
SURREY REGIMENT, VOL. III**

HISTORY *of the* EAST SURREY REGIMENT

BY
COLONEL H. W. PEARSE, D.S.O.

AND
BRIGADIER-GENERAL H. S. SLOMAN, C.M.G., D.S.O.

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CONTENTS

SECTION I

APRIL, 1917, TO MARCH, 1918

PAGE
3

CHAPTER I

April, 1917, to March, 1918 : The 1st Battalion in the Battles of Arras, 1917 ; in reserve during the Battle of Vimy Ridge ; in the attack on La Coulotte, south of Lens ; its heavy losses at Fresnoy ; two months in the line opposite Fresnoy ; in the Battles of Ypres, 1917 ; in action south of Polygon Wood in the Battle of Broodseinde ; in the attacks on the Polderhoek Spur during the Battle of Passchendaele ; with the 5th Division in Italy, in the line on the River Piave ; recalled to France with the 5th Division.

CHAPTER II

23

April, 1917, to March, 1918 : The 2nd Battalion with the British Salonika Army, in the advanced line east of the River Struma ; the withdrawal west of the Struma for the summer months ; the Battalion near Lake Doiran and its return to the Struma front ; the winter reoccupation of the advanced line beyond the River Struma.

CHAPTER III

29

April, 1917, to July, 1918 : The 1/5th Battalion leaves India to join the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force and takes part in operations on the Tigris.

CHAPTER IV

30

January, 1917, to March, 1918 : The 1/6th Battalion serves for twelve months with the Aden Field Force and then returns to India.

CHAPTER V

32

April, 1917, to February, 1918 : The 7th Battalion in the Battles of Arras, 1917 ; in action east of Arras in the first Battle of the Scarpe, 1917, and north-east of Monchy-le-Preux in the Third Battle of the Scarpe, 1917 ; in the Battle of Cambrai, 1917, the Battalion forces the Hindenburg Support Line near Bonavis and ten days later suffers heavy losses in the German counter-attack on that village ; the Battalion withdrawn to the River Lys and disbanded.

CHAPTER VI

53

April, 1917, to March, 1918 : The 8th Battalion in the Battles of Arras, 1917 ; in the Third Battle of the Scarpe, 1917, at Cherisy ; in the Battles of Ypres, 1917, in the line in Sanctuary Wood, and in the First Battle of Passchendaele near Poelcapelle ; the Battalion moves south to the front line near the River Oise, south of St. Quentin.

CHAPTER VII	PAGE 72
April, 1917, to March, 1918 : The 9th Battalion in the line opposite Lens ; in the Battle of Messines, 1917 ; in the Battles of Ypres, 1917 ; returns to the Somme area ; five months in the line near Hargicourt ; the Battalion moves to the Peronne Area.	
CHAPTER VIII	84
April, 1917, to March, 1918 : The 12th Battalion completes its spell of seven months in the St. Eloi Sector ; in the Battle of Messines, 1917 ; in the Battles of Ypres, 1917 ; in rest near Dunkirk ; after four months on the Italian front the Battalion returns to France.	
CHAPTER IX	96
April, 1917, to March, 1918 : The 13th Battalion captures Villers-Plouich, and afterwards passes five months in the line in that area. In the Battle of Cambrai, 1917. Fighting in Bournonville and Wood. In the line between Arras and Bapaume and in reserve near Arras.	
SECTION II	
MARCH, 1918, TO JULY, 1918	
CHAPTER X	113
March to July, 1918 : The 1st Battalion in the defence of the Forêt de Nieppe during the Battles of the Lys ; its successful attack on the German line at Arras ; in the action of La Becque.	
CHAPTER XI	122
March to July, 1918 : The 2nd Battalion with the Salonika Army, in the line at Dova Tepe near Lake Doiran and on the Krusha Balkan.	
CHAPTER XII	124
March to July, 1918 : The 8th Battalion in the German offensive in Picardy ; on the right of the Fifth Army in the Battle of St. Quentin ; relieved by the French and transferred to the Amiens area in time for the Battle of the Avre ; Reorganization after its heavy losses ; in the line near Albert.	
CHAPTER XIII	138
March to July, 1918 : The 9th Battalion during the German offensives, 1918 ; in the Battle of St. Quentin, in the action at Falvy and in the Battle of Rosières ; the remnants of the Battalion in the Composite Battalion, in the Battle of the Avre ; the reorganization of the Battalion and its return to the Lens area.	
CHAPTER XIV	149
March to July, 1918 : The 12th Battalion in the German offensives, 1918, in action north of Bapaume at Mory and Sapignies ; moves to the Ypres area.	

CONTENTS

vii
PAGE
154

CHAPTER XV

March to November, 1918 : The 13th Battalion in the German offensives, 1918 ; in action at Ervillers and Mory ; in the Battles of the Lys, is surrounded at Fleurbaix and loses heavily ; refitting in the St. Omer area ; reduced to a training staff which after a short period with an American regiment returns to England to raise the Battalion to establishment at Lowestoft. Disbandment ordered and completed.

SECTION III

AUGUST, 1918, TO NOVEMBER, 1918

CHAPTER XVI

165

August to November, 1918 : The 1st Battalion in the Advance to Victory ; in action near Achiet-le-Petit and Irles in the Battle of Albert, 1918 ; at Favreuil and Frémicourt in the Second Battle of Bapaume ; in the line near Havrincourt ; in action at Beaucamp in the Battle of the Canal du Nord ; near Briastre in the Battle of the Selle ; the advance through the Forêt de Mormal to Pont-sur-Sambre and St. Rémi-mal-Bâti in the Battle of the Sambre ; the Battalion withdrawn to Le Quesnoy ; the Armistice.

CHAPTER XVII

180

August to November, 1918 : The 2nd Battalion with the Salonika Army ; in support of the Cretan Division in the Battle of Doiran, 1918 ; it rejoins the 28th Division in the pursuit of the retreating Bulgarians ; the 28th Division withdrawn from the pursuit ; and moves southwards towards Salonika ; news of the Bulgarian, Turkish and German Armistices ; the Battalion placed under orders for Constantinople.

CHAPTER XVIII

186

August to November, 1918 : The 1/5th Battalion in the final operations against the Turks on the Tigris.

CHAPTER XIX

189

August to November, 1918 : The 8th Battalion in the Advance to Victory ; in the Battle of Amiens ; in the Battle of Albert, 1918, at the recapture of Albert, Mametz Wood and Montauban ; in the Second Battle of Bapaume, at the taking of Le Priez Farm and Rancourt ; in the Battle of Epéhy and capture of Ronssoy ; in the Battle of the Selle and capture of Bousies and Robersart ; in the Battle of the Sambre, the advance through the Forêt de Mormal to the Sambre, at Sassegny ; the Armistice.

CHAPTER XX

206

August, 1918, to November, 1918 : The 9th Battalion near Lens : it moves to the Cambrai area in time to take part in the Battle of Cambrai, 1918, and the Battle of the Selle : in the Battle of the Sambre at Bavai, where it receives the news of the Armistice.

	PAGE
CHAPTER XXI	215
August to November, 1918 : The 12th Battalion in the line at La Clytte and in action near Vierstraat ; in the final advance in Flanders, in the Battles of Ypres, 1918, and Courtrai ; after crossing the River Scheldt the Battalion receives the news of the Armistice.	
 SECTION IV 	
NOVEMBER, 1918, TO DECEMBER, 1919	
CHAPTER XXII	225
November, 1918, to December, 1919 : The 1st Battalion at Le Quesnoy after the Armistice ; moves with the 5th Division to the Gembloux area in Belgium ; demobilization ; the Battalion returns to England and is quartered at Bordon ; embarks at Tilbury and takes part in the closing operations of the North Russian Expeditionary Force ; returns to England and is stationed at Ripon.	
CHAPTER XXIII	240
November, 1918, to December, 1919 : The 2nd Battalion in Constantinople ; progress of demobilization ; the Battalion returns to England and is stationed at Kingston, Clipstone and Aldershot ; under orders for service in Egypt.	
CHAPTER XXIV	242
November, 1918, to February, 1920 : The 1/5th Battalion with the Army of Occupation in Mesopotamia : takes part in punitive operations in Southern Khurdistan : returns to England and is demobilized.	
CHAPTER XXV	247
November, 1918, to November, 1919 : The 1/6th Battalion returns to England and is demobilized.	
CHAPTER XXVI	250
November, 1918, to June, 1919 : The 8th Battalion employed in salvage work about Elincourt ; the King's visit : the presentation of colours : demobilization : return of the Cadre to England and disbandment.	
CHAPTER XXVII	255
November, 1918, to March, 1920 : The 9th Battalion after the Armistice ; at Tournai, where it receives the King's colour ; with the British Army of Occupation on the Rhine ; the Battalion returns to England and is disbanded.	
CHAPTER XXVIII	258
November, 1918, to June, 1919 : The 12th Battalion marches across Belgium to Huy and proceeds thence by rail to join the Army of Occupation on the Rhine ; replaced in Army of Occupation at Volberg by 9th Battalion, which takes over most of the 12th Battalion personnel ; final disbandment.	

LIST OF MAPS

	PAGE
THE 1ST BATTALION AT FRESNOY, 8TH MAY, 1917	9
MAP TO ILLUSTRATE THE MOVEMENTS OF THE 1ST AND 12TH BATTALIONS IN ITALY, 1918	19
THE 7TH BATTALION IN THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE SCARPE, APRIL 9TH, 1917	33
THE 7TH BATTALION IN THE 3RD BATTLE OF THE SCARPE, AND SUBSEQUENT OPERATIONS AT MONCHY-LE-PREUX, MAY-OCTOBER, 1917	37
THE 7TH BATTALION IN THE BATTLE OF CAMBRAI, NOVEMBER, 1917	46
CHERISY, SHOWING THE ACTION ON MAY 3RD, 1917	55
THE 13TH BATTALION AT THE CAPTURE OF VILLERS-POUICH, 24TH APRIL, 1917, AND THE 1ST BATTALION IN THE BATTLE OF THE CANAL DU NORD, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1918	97
THE 13TH BATTALION AT BOURLON, 24TH TO 27TH NOVEMBER, 1917	105
THE 1ST BATTALION AT ARREWAGE, 20TH MAY, 1918	119
THE 8TH BATTALION IN THE BATTLE OF ST. QUENTIN, MARCH, 1918	127
THE ACTIONS OF THE 9TH BATTALION IN THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE OF MARCH, 1918	139
THE 12TH AND 13TH BATTALIONS IN THE MORY AREA	156
THE 1/5TH BATTALION IN THE OPERATIONS ON THE TIGRIS AND IN SOUTHERN KHURDISTAN	187
THE 1ST BATTALION IN NORTH-WEST RUSSIA	229
THE 1ST BATTALION IN THE OPERATION NEAR LAKE ONEGA, SEPTEMBER, 1919	237
GENERAL MAP OF NORTHERN FRANCE	} End of volume
GENERAL MAP OF THE YPRES SALIENT	
GENERAL MAP OF THE SOMME FRONT	
GENERAL MAP OF THE SALONIKA FRONT	

ILLUSTRATION

THE 2ND BATTALION AT CONSTANTINOPLE	240
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SECTION I

APRIL, 1917, TO MARCH, 1918

THE BATTLES OF ARRAS, 1917 ; THE BATTLE OF MESSINES ; THE BATTLES OF YPRES, 1917 ; THE BATTLE OF CAMBRAI, 1917. OPERATIONS IN ITALY, SALONIKA, MESOPOTAMIA AND ADEN.

CHAPTER I

APRIL, 1917, TO MARCH, 1918: THE 1ST BATTALION IN THE BATTLES OF ARRAS, 1917; IN RESERVE DURING THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE; IN THE ATTACK ON LA COULOTTE, SOUTH OF LENS; ITS HEAVY LOSSES AT FRESNOY; TWO MONTHS IN THE LINE OPPOSITE FRESNOY; IN THE BATTLES OF YPRES, 1917; IN ACTION SOUTH OF POLYGON WOOD IN THE BATTLE OF BROODSEINDE; IN THE ATTACKS ON THE POLDERHOEK SPUR DURING THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE; WITH THE 5TH DIVISION IN ITALY, IN THE LINE ON THE RIVER PIAVE; RECALLED TO FRANCE WITH THE 5TH DIVISION.

DURING the fortnight that the 1st Battn. East Surrey spent in training at Raimbert, near Lillers, a Brigade Church Parade took place on Sunday, the 1st April, at which General Sir H. S. Horne, Commanding the First Army, presented the ribbon of the Military Medal to Sergts. A. J. Harding and W. A. Woodman. On the 6th news reached the Battalion that Lieut. C. McC. H. M. Caffyn, a very popular and efficient officer, who had left it to join the Flying Corps just before the battles of the Somme, 1916, had been killed in action.

The Battalion left Raimbert on the 7th April and marched southwards to Maisnil-les-Ruitz, half of which village with the church had been destroyed in May, 1915, by the explosion of a great shell dump. Next morning the march was continued to Bois des Alleux, six miles north-west of Arras, where the Battalion was quartered in huts in the wood.

While the 1st Battn. East Surrey was at Raimbert the retreat to the Hindenburg line of the German forces on the Arras-Soissons front had taken place. This retreat did not greatly affect the British plans for the Arras offensive, which was fixed to open on the 9th April, and was to include an attack by the First Army on Vimy Ridge, north of Arras, while the Third Army was to prolong this attack southward against the German positions east and south of that town. To the Canadian Corps, with the 5th Division in reserve, was allotted the task of assaulting Vimy Ridge.

At 5.30 a.m. on the 9th April the Canadian Corps advanced in a snowstorm under cover of a very effective artillery barrage, and within forty minutes had stormed the German front-line system on the Ridge except at its northern extremity. In the second advance at 7.30 a.m. the 13th Brigade of the 5th Division was engaged in the centre of the attack, in which the Canadian divisions completed the capture of Vimy Ridge with the exception of Hill 145. In this action the 13th Brigade distinguished itself by taking guns and prisoners at the capture of Goulot Wood, having itself less than 300 casualties. Next day Hill 145 and the other positions near it were captured, and the whole of the ridge was cleared

4 THE 1ST BATTALION IN THE ATTACK ON LA COULOTTE

and consolidated. On the 12th the First Army made further progress on both sides of the Souchez River beyond the northern extremity of the ridge, with the result that the enemy commenced to abandon those of his positions which were commanded by the ridge, and on the 13th Canadian troops occupied Givenchy-en-Gohelle and the German trenches to the east of that village. This fighting took place in weather which has been described as the worst experienced during the War.

On the 14th April the 1st Battn. East Surrey left Bois des Alleux and marched by companies to Cabaret Rouge, just south of Souchez village, where they had nothing but waterlogged trenches to live in. During the next two days a number of the officers reconnoitred along the new British front on the far side of Vimy Ridge, while the remainder of the Battalion was engaged on road-mending fatigues.

During the afternoon of the 17th April the Battalion moved forward to the quarries east of Souchez and just under the ridge, where next day four men were wounded by an explosion, caused apparently by a Mills' bomb buried in the mud under one of the fires used for cooking purposes.

The Battalion was ordered to relieve the Devons during the night of April 19th, and marched over the ridge to the front line east of Givenchy-en-Gohelle at 6.15 that evening. The hostile artillery fire was continuous, and 2nd Lieut. Hatton and 2 men were wounded during the relief and 1 man was killed and 4 wounded during the night. The next two days were fairly quiet, though the artillery and aircraft of both sides were active and 2 men were wounded.

During the night of April 22nd/23rd the Devons replaced the 1st Battn. East Surrey in the front line of the 95th Brigade, preparatory to the impending attack by the 5th Division on the German positions about La Coulotte, half a mile south of Lens. This attack was a subsidiary operation to the Second Battle of the Scarpe, 1917, which was fought simultaneously to the east of Arras. In the La Coulotte operation the 5th Division attacked south of the Souchez River, while the 46th Division co-operated north of it. In carrying out the attack the 95th Brigade was on the left and the 15th on the right, the 13th Brigade being in reserve. At 4.45 a.m. on the 23rd April the assaulting battalions moved forward. They met with strong opposition, and though the first objective was carried and the D.C.L.I., on the left, established themselves in the railway loop 1000 yards east of La Coulotte, in the end but little ground was gained. The Devons and Cornwalls lost heavily, particularly the former, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey was ordered to relieve them in the front line after dark. The attacks of the 15th Brigade on the right and of the 46th Division on the left met with no better success. All the troops engaged behaved gallantly and did their best, but, owing to the very bad weather which followed the capture of Vimy Ridge, that success could not be followed up, and the enemy was thus allowed time to establish himself in the strong positions to which he retreated on the 13th April. In front of these positions was an open space 500 to 600 yards in depth, across which the attacking infantry had to advance in the face of innumerable machine guns, whose fire, combined with that of the field guns, shattered the attack.

The 1st Battn. East Surrey, which had 4 killed and 16 wounded on 23rd April, was relieved during the night following by the 44th Canadian Battalion and moved back along roads which were being heavily shelled about five miles to Vancouver Huts, Château de la Haie. Its total casualties since the 18th had been 1 officer and 44 other ranks. On the 29th it moved forward to a camp near La Targette, four miles north of Arras, where it again came under shell fire, but enjoyed a spell of fine weather and was employed on railway construction.

On May 2nd the 95th Brigade was warned to be ready to take over on the following night the front of the 1st Canadian Division, which was to advance against Fresnoy on the 3rd, as part of the general attack by the First, Third and Fifth Armies. Fresnoy, which lies seven miles north-east of Arras, was captured soon after dawn on the 3rd; but the Divisions on the right and left of the 1st Canadian Division were both checked, with the result that Fresnoy became a marked salient. It was decided, however, to hold it.

The 1st Battn. East Surrey was originally instructed to take over the whole of the new front of the 1st Canadian Brigade, but later orders were received directing the 12th Battn. Gloucester Regt. to take over the northern portion. On reaching Fresnoy late in the evening of the 3rd the 1st Battn. East Surrey relieved, therefore, only the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Battalions in the front-line trenches, which formed the salient east of the village. Three companies took over the fire trenches dug that day by the Canadians, and D Company was in support in rear of the wood which stands south of Fresnoy and in a central position as regards the salient (see map opposite page 8). Throughout the relief they were heavily shelled.

The trenches taken over were necessarily very incomplete and were not connected up. There were as yet no communication trenches and no telephone lines, and therefore, as the ground offered no possibility of visual signalling, communication with Battalion Headquarters was impracticable during daylight. During the two nights following the companies worked hard and strengthened their positions as much as possible. Lieut.-Colonel Woulfe-Flanagan, after inspecting the front line, came to the conclusion that the trenches, particularly those on the right, were in advance of their supposed position. He accordingly arranged with the artillery for fresh barrage lines. By day the enemy's artillery was active, but not very effective until the 6th, when D Company, in support, lost 2 men killed and 18 wounded. As the telephone lines were being cut as fast as they were run out, pigeons were sent up to the flank companies.

Orders were now received that the front held by the 95th Brigade was to be readjusted, with the general result that the East Surrey was to take ground slightly to the right and existing gaps were to be filled up. The necessary movements took place during the night of May 6th/7th, and the disposition of the Battalion was then as follows: The front-line trenches extended from a point on the cart track from Fresnoy to Bontemps, some 150 yards from the last house, round the salient to a point 600 yards south of the village, the total frontage held being about three-quarters of a mile. In order to complete the manning of this extended front, two platoons of the support company were brought up on

6 THE 1ST BATTN. ATTACKED IN THE FRESNOY SALIENT

the right. The distribution of companies in the front line was therefore, from left to right, as follows:—

B	Company	(Captain W. Blackman). ¹
A	„	(Captain E. G. Sullivan).
C	„	(Captain R. J. Hillier).
D	„	(two platoons only).

This left two platoons of D Company, under 2nd Lieut. A. L. Sutton, in support. According to orders, the front line was to be held at all costs, and, in the event of an attack on the whole of the Brigade front, commanding officers of the front battalions were instructed to counter-attack immediately with two companies of the Battalion in brigade support and all available reserves of their own battalions. May 7th passed fairly quietly, though three men were killed and 2nd Lieut. P. H. Drake-Brockman and ten men were wounded. The Battalion was informed that it would be relieved during the night of the 8th/9th May.

May 8th, however, was destined to be an unfortunate day for the 95th Brigade and one of heavy loss for the 1st Battrn. East Surrey. There had been considerable artillery and aerial activity on the Brigade front in the early mornings of the 6th and 7th, and the possibility of a German attack was fully recognized. In the 1st Battrn. East Surrey there appeared to be no cause for anxiety, notwithstanding the fact that the front-line trenches were somewhat thinly held—about one man to every two yards—and that the immediate support available was limited to two platoons. The Battalion had consistently held its ground throughout the War, whatever the weight of artillery and preponderance of numbers brought against it, and, provided that its flanks were secure, there was no reason to doubt that once more it would hold its own.

Throughout the night of May 7th/8th it rained steadily, and what may be called the anticipated attack began before dawn on the 8th.

At 3 a.m. the enemy put down a barrage on the trenches east and north of Fresnoy. As the barrage lifted, B Company could see the enemy advancing against the battalion on its left and opened fire on him. Shortly afterwards the East Surrey listening posts reported that the enemy was moving on their front also, and a few minutes later he could be seen dimly in the half-light advancing in groups similar to the “artillery formation.” Lewis gun and rifle fire was at once opened on the attackers, but the S.O.S. calls failed to obtain artillery support. The attack was stopped, however, by the companies’ fire, and in front of B Company the Germans flung themselves on the ground to escape the storm of bullets. The steady rain and resulting mud began, however, to reduce the volume of the defenders’ fire, as many of the Lewis guns and rifles jammed, and the enemy, who had been lying down thirty or forty yards away, perceiving this, attempted another advance. He got within twenty yards of the trenches when he was met by a hail of Mills’ bombs that shattered the attack and drove the survivors back to their own lines.

¹ Captain Blackman had been a company sergeant-major in the 2nd battalion East Surrey, and had been awarded the D.C.M. while serving with it in March, 1915.

After the repulse of this attack, the East Surrey companies sent in verbal reports to Battalion Headquarters and asked for further supplies of ammunition. Captain Blackman, commanding B Company, then received a report that 2nd Lieut. F. T. Mobbs, in charge of his two left platoons, had been killed, and he sent 2nd Lieut. Windebank to clear up the situation on that flank. The last-named officer, on reaching the left trench of the company, found that it was held by three or four men only and that the next trench to the north on the other side of the Fresnoy-Bontemps cart track was occupied by the enemy. 2nd Lieut. Windebank started back to report accordingly, but was captured on the way with his whole party, so that Captain Blackman remained unaware of the serious development of the situation on his left. It would seem that a temporarily successful counter-attack by the support company of the Gloucester Regt. prevented the Germans, who had broken into the left trench and captured 2nd Lieut. Windebank, from molesting for the moment B Company's exposed flank.

About 4 a.m. the German artillery put down another barrage, under cover of which a second attack in great strength was made along the whole front of the salient. The light was now much better, and the right and centre East Surrey companies had no difficulty in beating off their assailants, again without artillery support, and with no abnormal loss. B Company on the left, however, was not so fortunate. Masses of German infantry poured through the breach on each side of the Fresnoy-Bontemps cart track, some of whom fell suddenly on the flank and rear of B Company, while others made their way towards Fresnoy Wood and attacked the two platoons of D Company in support, who had already lost heavily from shell fire.

B Company, inspired by the gallant example of Captain Blackman, who was now the only officer left with it, fought with desperate courage. Attacked in front, flank and rear by overwhelming numbers, the company was practically destroyed in a hand-to-hand fight which apparently continued till after 5.30 a.m., and out of the three platoons of B Company which made this stand not one unwounded man escaped, and the company commander was killed.

The stout resistance of B Company afforded protection to the left of A and those companies further to the right at a critical moment when, about 4.30 a.m., they were called upon to deal with a third German attack. There was still no artillery support for the defenders, and on the left of A Company the attackers, carried forward no doubt by the final rush on B Company, got close to the position before they were stopped by oblique fire from the centre of the company. About 5 a.m. the Germans fell back, leaving machine-gun detachments in shell holes some fifty yards from the trenches. These were quickly driven out by rifle grenades and Mills' bombs, Pte. A. A. Bailey being killed as he dashed out to bomb one of the guns single-handed.

It was now broad daylight, with misty rain, and after the repulse of the third German attack Captain Sullivan, having despatched a messenger to Battalion Headquarters to report that the situation was again normal, ordered his men to "stand down" and clean rifles and Lewis guns.

Very soon afterwards, however, A Company noticed that strong parties of Germans were moving across their left rear towards Fresnoy Wood, and also that fighting was still going on in B Company. Immediately afterwards heavy machine-gun fire was opened on the rear of A, which caused considerable casualties. Realizing the danger of envelopment, Captain Sullivan decided to throw back the left of his company, and in order to carry out the movement he organized a counter-attack against the enemy in Fresnoy Wood. This counter-attack, led by 2nd Lieut. C. Hyde Edwards, achieved its object, but none of the officers or men who made it rejoined their company, and it was afterwards ascertained that 2nd Lieut. Edwards died of his wounds on the 22nd May.

Under cover of the counter-attack Captain Sullivan, leaving only half of No. 2 Platoon to hold the right section of the original front under 2nd Lieut. O. A. Strong,¹ who was killed shortly afterwards, drew back the remainder of his company, under Company Sergt.-Major W. H. Butler, into the old German communication trench shown in the sketch, whence they engaged the enemy towards Fresnoy.

Captain Sullivan was killed about 6.30 a.m., but the company still held on to its position until 7 a.m., when a general attack was made on the remaining East Surrey companies, viz. C in the centre, with the remnants of A and D Companies on its flanks. Shot at from three sides, the East Surrey men lined parapet and parados and fought stoutly under Captain Hillier. The party of A Company under Company Sergt.-Major Butler in the old German communication trench appears to have been first cut off and, with a few exceptions, captured, and its gallant commander, who had served for fifteen years in the Regiment, was killed. After this Captain Hillier, seeing the position was untenable, ordered C Company to retire from its left. It was, however, too late; the men were shot down from all sides. Captain R. J. Hillier was wounded and captured, as were also 2nd Lieuts. G. H. Hearn and E. G. Neame. 2nd Lieut. Hearn died of his wounds in captivity four days later. The other officer of the company, 2nd Lieut. S. M. Gashion, had been killed about 6 a.m. when reconnoitring Fresnoy Wood.

From C Company only messengers and a very few wounded men escaped, while the two platoons of D Company entrenched on the right of C shared its fate, the only survivor being 2nd Lieut. E. A. Atkins, who had been wounded early in the action.

It remains only to tell the story of the two platoons of D Company which were in support in rear of Fresnoy Wood. As already related, they were attacked about 5 a.m. by the Germans, who had got past the left flank of B Company. Their heavy losses by German shell fire have already been mentioned, and the infantry attack fell on them very suddenly from the left and rear. The sentry on the dugout used as company headquarters was shot, and 2nd Lieut. Sutton, Company Sergt.-Major Wilkins and eleven men were surprised in the dugout, a large one with three entrances. They refused to surrender and defended the

¹ 2nd Lieut. O. A. Strong came home with the 2nd battalion at the end of December, 1914, as a band-boy.



THE 1ST BATTALION AT FRESNO, 8TH MAY, 1917.

entrances for six and a half hours. During that time the Germans frequently bombed the party. At last, after many attempts, the Germans set on fire a quantity of brushwood which they had thrown down into the dugout, and death or surrender seemed inevitable. At that moment, however, a number of British shells fell close by, and the Germans retreated to a safer spot. 2nd Lieut. Sutton seized the opportunity and escaped to the trenches held by the D.C.L.I. with seven survivors of his party, all but two of whom were wounded. 2nd Lieut. Sutton's party consisted of the following:—

Pte. A. W. Braden.	Killed.	Pte. Hunt.	} Wounded.
C.S.M. Wilkins.	} Missing.	„ Wyeth.	
Pte. Skinner.		Cpl. Ivory.	
Pte. Perry.	} Wounded.	Pte. Reed.	
„ Wood.			
„ Panten.			

In the report of the affair special mention was made of the conduct of Pte. Perry and Cpl. Ivory.

When the loss of Fresnoy became known, an immediate decision was necessary as to whether or not an attempt should be made to restore the situation by counter-attack with the only available local reserve, two weak companies of the support battalion. It was decided that such a counter-attack could not succeed against the great numbers of the enemy, who had now consolidated their captured position, and that it was more essential to hold the line in case the enemy should attempt a further advance, which seemed probable. The two companies D.C.L.I. were therefore kept in their trenches.

At noon the following was the disposition of the 95th Brigade: The previous support line east of Arleux had become the front line, held by the D.C.L.I. and a few men of the East Surrey. On their right were two companies 2nd Battn. K.O.S.B. The new support line was the Arleux Loop. This was held by Battalion Headquarters of the D.C.L.I., Battalion Headquarters and one company Gloucester Regt. and Battalion Headquarters of the East Surrey, numbering about seventy of all ranks. On their right, beyond a gap, were the two support companies of the K.O.S.B. In the afternoon the Devons reinforced the garrison of this weakly held line, and in the evening the 1st Battn. Norfolk Regt. was sent up to the Arleux Loop. The remnant of the 1st Battn. East Surrey was then ordered back to bivouac east of the Vimy Ridge, but owing to a threatened further attack by the enemy, the move did not begin till 9.30 p.m.

The losses of the Battalion at Fresnoy were very heavy, and a long time elapsed before they could be accurately stated. It was eventually found that, in addition to the 6 officers killed in action and 2 mortally wounded, whose names have been mentioned already, 1 officer was wounded and escaped capture and 5 were captured, viz. Captain R. J. Hillier (wounded) and 2nd Lieuts. E. G. Neame (wounded), W. C. Roser, E. A. Weeks and S. Windebank. The casualties in other ranks were 120 killed, 54 wounded and 321 missing, of whom many were

THE BATTALION RETURNS TO THE ARLEUX TRENCHES 11

wounded. Thus, in an action lasting a little over four hours, the four companies of the Battalion were practically wiped out, and the position so gallantly captured by the Canadians was lost. Yet never did the officers and men of the East Surrey fight with greater courage or more honour, and of Fresnoy, as of Fontenoy, the East Surrey Regt. may well be proud.

In the afternoon of May 9th the Battalion moved into a camp north-west of Roclincourt, and on the 11th marched to Maroeuil, near Arras, and went into billets in the Cotton Factory. Next day the Battalion was temporarily organized for parades and discipline as one company under Captain Congdon, each platoon representing one of the former companies. New companies were then slowly built up from the reserve, which had been left behind when the Battalion went into the Fresnoy trenches, and from drafts as they arrived. The Battalion remained at Maroeuil for ten days, during which period it was visited by the Divisional Commander, who told the Commanding Officer that he considered the 1st Battn. East Surrey had fought at Fresnoy like lions and had done all that was possible under the circumstances. On the 21st the Battalion moved to St. Aubin, and four days later to Sheffield Camp at Roclincourt, where for the rest of the month the Battalion lay alongside the Royal Naval Division. The band of the R.M.L.I., which was temporarily attached to that division, remembered the ancient connection of the 31st Regiment with the sea service, and frequently played in its lines in Sheffield Camp.

On the 1st June the 95th Brigade was relieved by the 13th and went back in buses to the rest area about Diéval, near St. Pol. The East Surrey was billeted at Camblain-Chatelain for a week, where small drafts came in, and on June 4th the total strength of the Battalion was 31 officers and 660 other ranks. The G.O.C. XIII Corps visited the Battalion on the 5th and warmly congratulated Lieut.-Colonel Woulfe-Flanagan on the great fight put up at Fresnoy.

On June 9th the 95th Brigade relieved the 15th in the Roclincourt area, in Corps Reserve, where it remained till June 14th, finding night working parties, but suffering no casualties. At 11 p.m. on the 14th the 1st Battn. East Surrey moved up to the trenches south-west of Farbus Wood (one mile south of Vimy), where it was posted in Brigade Reserve. This day Pte. Albert William Charles Bloomfield was awarded the Médaille Militaire "for gallant conduct about Longueval and Delville Wood and in subsequent engagements, for repeatedly carrying important messages when employed as a battalion orderly to and from Battalion Headquarters and the front line through heavily shelled areas, thus successfully maintaining communications throughout the operations. This man has served throughout nearly the whole of the campaign with the Battalion."

On June 19th the Battalion took over the left sub-sector (Arleux) in the front line from the 1st Battn. Devon Regt., remaining in the trenches until the night of the 24th. The tour was a fortunate one, with no casualties. On relief, the Battalion went into support near Willerval.

On the 25th a draft of 120 young soldiers arrived from the Corps training depot, which with two other small drafts that joined the Battalion about this time brought it once more nearly up to establishment. Regt. Sergt.-Major T.

Murden also rejoined at the end of June, having recovered from his wounds received at Delville Wood a year before. On the last day of the month the Battalion again relieved the 1st Battn. Devon Regt. in the left sub-sector, where it remained till the night of July 5th.

On the 2nd, Lieut.-Colonel Woulfe-Flanagan was warned that the Battalion would shortly be required to carry out a raid, the objective of which was a trench along the western edge of Fresnoy Park. A and D Companies, under Captain H. C. Mason and 2nd Lieut. G. Gunning, were selected for the duty. The relief on the night of July 5th took a considerable time owing to a redistribution of the divisional front, and the Battalion was not settled down in camp at Roclincourt until early on the 6th. Special training for the coming raid began next day. The area was visited by His Majesty the King in the morning of July 11th, and B and C Companies were among the troops who lined the road and cheered His Majesty as he passed in an open car.

Raid orders were issued on the 14th, the raid being fixed for an early hour on the 15th; but, owing to very bad weather and defective transport arrangements, for which the Battalion was not responsible, the operation was postponed. On July 16th the 5th Division extended its front, and B and C Companies, under Major Minogue, moved as Brigade Reserve to the Vimy-Liévin line, south-west of Lens. A and D Companies continued at Roclincourt their training for the raid until the evening of July 17th, when they moved by rail, and afterwards through Tired Alley, to the Arleux Loop. A tape line had already been laid at the starting-point by 2nd Lieuts. R. F. H. Nalder and F. P. J. Glover, and on this the companies formed up for their advance. At 3.30 a.m. on the 18th the barrage opened, and the companies followed it to their objective. The men were glad of the opportunity of avenging the losses of the Battalion on the 8th May, and used their bayonets with good effect in the enemy's trenches. About twenty Germans were killed, and one prisoner, belonging to the 10th Bavarian Infantry Regt., was brought back. The casualties in the two companies were 4 men reported killed and 14 missing, all supposed to be killed. 2nd Lieuts. L. W. Fyson and W. G. Piercy and 20 men were wounded. For gallant conduct in this raid, Cpl. G. F. Gregory and Pte. L. R. Saberi were subsequently awarded the Military Medal.

After the raid the two companies moved back to a camp just north of Ecurie, near Arras, and on the 20th the Battalion relieved the 1st Battn. Devon Regt. in the Oppy Wood right sub-sector. Lieut.-Colonel E. M. Woulfe-Flanagan, D.S.O., who had commanded the Battalion with marked distinction since July 5th, 1915, left for England on leave, and the command devolved on Major M. J. Minogue, who was appointed Acting Lieut.-Colonel from August 5th. Captain G. A. E. Panter rejoined and was appointed Second-in-Command, with the temporary rank of major. The Battalion remained in the line without special incident until the 26th July, when, on relief by the 1st Battn. Devon Regt., it withdrew into support. On the 28th the 15th Brigade relieved the 95th, and the Battalion consequently moved back to Ecurie Wood Huts, where the remainder of the month was spent in training and musketry.

After two wet days the Battalion moved on August 3rd to Kitchener Camp, which lay on the west side of the Roclincourt-Thelus road. Here the weather was mostly bad and conditions uncomfortable. On the 9th the Battalion relieved the 16th Battn. Royal Warwick Regt. in Brigade Reserve in the Vimy-Liévin line, and a good deal of work was done at night on a light railway, and in carrying materials to the Oppy Wood defences. From the 15th to 21st August the Battalion was again in the right sub-sector Oppy Wood trenches. On the 16th a deserter from the 1st Battn. 5th Grenadier Regt. gave himself up. He was a Hanoverian, aged nineteen. When relieved, after an uneventful tour, the Battalion returned to Ecurie Wood Huts, where a course of training in the attack was carried out, followed by a rehearsal attack on a taped course at Brunehaut Farm representing the German line between Fresnoy and Oppy. On the 27th, in very unpleasant weather, the Battalion moved to Roberts Camp, where it remained till the end of the month.

From the 2nd to 7th September the 1st Battn. East Surrey was in support to the Oppy Wood sector. As the 5th Division was now being withdrawn from the line to rest, the Battalion moved on the latter date to the rendezvous of the 95th Brigade at Frévin Capelle, and on the 9th the Brigade marched to its training area, the 1st Battn. East Surrey going into billets at Penin, seven miles east of St. Pol, where Lieut. G. W. Kennedy, who had been severely wounded at the defence of Hill 60 in April, 1915, rejoined and took command of D Company. The Battalion spent a fortnight at Penin, carrying on training and devoting leisure time to sports and football. The arrival of two large drafts brought the Battalion once more to establishment. On September 25th the Battalion moved by rail and road to Nortleulinghem, in the St. Omer area, the 5th Division having been transferred from the Fifth to the Second Army. The actual destination of the Division was uncertain, and the 95th Brigade moved on September 27th to Houille, and on the 28th to Maison Blanche, in the neighbourhood of Cassel. On the 29th the Brigade marched to Meteren, where it remained on the 30th in anticipation of an attack which it was expected would be made in a few days' time. The strength of the Battalion was then 45 officers and 969 other ranks.

The battles of Ypres, 1917, had been in progress since the 31st July, and the British troops had fought their way forward in the first four battles of the series, until at the end of September the line they held north of the Menin road included Polygon Wood and the village of Zonnebeke.

On the 1st October the 5th Division was ordered to relieve the 23rd Division forthwith in the line north of the Menin road. The 95th and 13th Brigades were detailed for the front line, with the 15th Brigade in reserve. The Battalion consequently embussed at Meteren early on the 1st, and arrived at Ridge Wood about 11 a.m. Dinners were served, while officers commanding companies went forward with advanced parties to reconnoitre the front line. The Battalion moved forward as the light was beginning to fail, and followed its guides past the east corner of Zillebeke pond to the Menin road at Hooge. At this point, some two and a half miles from their destination, the companies were checked

by heavy artillery fire and were forced to take cover in shell holes and shallow trenches by the roadside.

After infinite difficulties and a number of casualties the relief was eventually completed by 2 a.m. on October 2nd, and the Battalion then held a line from a point 200 yards south of the Reutelbeek, extending northwards through Jut Farm. An extension of this line passing east of Cameron House was taken over on the night of the 2nd, after which the 1st Battn. East Surrey held the whole of the Brigade front. All four companies were in the line, A on the right and the rest in sequence. Battalion Headquarters were at Fitz-Clarence Farm, and Brigade Headquarters in Sanctuary Wood.

Trenches were almost non-existent, and the men had to settle down in shell holes and scrape together what shelter they could. This was a difficult task, for the broken ground had been so churned up by the continual pounding of artillery that the soil was loose as sand. Concrete pill-boxes gave cover for Battalion and Company Headquarters, but the entrances to nearly all of them were in full view of a watchful sniper or machine gunner. Shelling was intermittent by day and heavy at night, and many casualties resulted, including Captain G. J. T. Sanders wounded. Rations came up the Menin road about 7.30 every evening, and the company ration parties had a most unpleasant duty and suffered considerably, having to cross a bullet- and shell-swept expanse of ground by tracks which were littered with dead men and transport animals, arms, equipment and derelict tanks more or less shattered; everywhere the stench of death and poison gas filled the air.

As soon as possible some reserve rations and water were collected at Battalion Headquarters, and every orderly or other soldier going to the front line took with him as much as he could carry, thus reducing somewhat the work of the regular carrying parties. Communications with Brigade Headquarters were maintained by buried cable, and with the companies by runners only, though the front line was able to send back messages at night by lamp signal. Considerable use was also made of pigeons.

In the general attack extending from the Menin road northwards to the Ypres-Staden railway, which commenced at an early hour on October 4th, the 5th Division was allotted the task of capturing the spur south-west of Reutel and the eastern slopes of the spur beyond Polderhoek Château, in order to assist the 21st Division in the capture of Reutel, which lies about 1000 yards east of Polygon Wood. The 5th Division placed the 13th Brigade on the right and the 95th on the left. In the 95th Brigade the Devons were to attack on the right and the D.C.L.I. on the left; the 1st Battn. East Surrey was to be in support, with the Gloucester Regt. in reserve. Further instructions were given to the East Surrey that C and D Companies would move forward in close support of the D.C.L.I. when it attacked, and that, on the attacking battalions reaching their final objective, A and B Companies would move up to Cameron Covert and remain there in support.

As the attacking battalions passed the East Surrey headquarters their commanding officers were called in to consult. Lieut.-Colonel Blount and Captain

Sir B. Williams, the Commanding Officer and Adjutant of the Devons, were killed by a shell a few minutes after they had left, as was 2nd Lieut. R. W. Wells, East Surrey, who was acting as their guide.

The early morning of October 4th was dull, with slight rain. At 6 a.m. the barrage opened and the assaulting battalions of the 95th Brigade went forward; on the left the D.C.L.I. succeeded in reaching its objective, Juniper Hill, with the East Surrey in close support; but on the right the Devons, though they passed Polderhoek Château on both sides, were unable to capture that building. The château stood at the eastern extremity of a spur running out from Veldhoek and was a nest of machine guns, the fire from which took in reverse those troops who had passed it by and isolated them also by sweeping the northern and southern slopes of the spur.

The Germans now threw in one counter-attack after another, eight in all, between the Menin road and Reutel, and, in spite of most determined fighting, they regained in the afternoon the ground they had lost on the Polderhoek Spur. The two East Surrey companies which had reinforced the Cornwalls suffered heavily with them in repelling the counter-attacks, and the two companies in support sustained also extremely heavy losses from artillery and machine-gun fire. At nightfall the front line ran along the west side of Cameron Covert and just west of the Château Wood. North of the Reutelbeek it was held by groups of Cornwall and East Surrey men, with the remainder of the East Surrey in support near Cameron House; south of the beek were the Devons, with most of the Gloucesters in support.

During the day's fighting 2nd Lieuts. C. J. Whitehead, G. Burdett, C. F. A. West and E. G. Bayne and over 100 other ranks were killed or mortally wounded, and 2nd Lieut. A. Mason was among the large number of wounded.

October 5th was a fine day, which was spent in reorganizing as far as possible and consolidating the ground gained on the 4th, a difficult task, as all movements were under observation and drew fire. Owing to their heavy losses, the Devons and D.C.L.I. were withdrawn from the line, and the 1st Battn. Cheshire Regt., lent by the 15th Brigade, was ordered to occupy the new line from the Reutelbeek to the northern boundary of the divisional front, with the 1st Battn. East Surrey in support on the original front line as it was before the attack of the 4th. The 12th Battn. Gloucester Regt. were in reserve in Sanctuary Wood. The readjustment of the line was successfully effected, but not without casualties, which included Captain L. Jones, an excellent officer, who was killed.

The night of October 5th was rainy, and there were heavy showers on the 6th which flooded the shell holes. Officers and men were beginning to feel the strain of the weather and the ever-increasing losses from the enemy's persistent shell fire. A and B Companies were now amalgamated under Lieut. Kennedy, and C and D under Captain Sutton. The united strength of the first two companies was 120 of all ranks, and that of the other two was 80; figures which, when compared with the strength at the end of September, speak plainly enough of the nature of the few days' fighting. Heavy rain on the 7th increased the discomfort; nevertheless, says the Battalion Diary, the men kept wonderfully

16 UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACKS ON POLDERHOEK CHATEAU

cheerful. An unfortunate accident happened that day in B Company: a petrol tin, supposed to contain water, was being heated, when it burst. The contents were petrol, and twenty men were burnt, some badly. The accident could not well have been worse timed.

As part of an operation subsidiary to the Battle of Poelcapelle, which was fought some distance to the north of Polygon Wood, the 5th Division was ordered to complete the capture of the Polderhoek Spur on the 9th October. Certain changes of position took place, therefore, during the night of the 8th. The 1st Battn. East Surrey was ordered to move back to Bedford House on the canal bank, but at the last moment its destination was changed to Sanctuary Wood, where it was to be held in reserve. This change made the task of the guides very difficult, but eventually the Battalion found its way to the remains of the wood and settled down in such cover as could be found, again chiefly shell holes.

The 9th was a fine day, but rain came on again at night. The renewed attack was launched by the 15th Brigade at 5.20 a.m. and was unsuccessful, Polderhoek Château again holding up the Division. At 11.30 a.m., when the artillery fire had slackened somewhat, the 1st Battn. East Surrey moved back by companies to the canal bank, where dinners were issued, and at 4 p.m. marched to huts in Ridge Wood, where it passed the night. Next morning, in heavy rain, the Battalion marched to Westoutre, where it was gradually joined by the remainder of the 95th Brigade, the last unit arriving on the 14th October. The first few days at Westoutre were spent in reorganizing platoons and companies and the general work following heavy fighting. The training of new Lewis gunners and bombers was taken in hand, the former in particular having suffered heavy casualties. A draft of 200 men arrived on the 17th, many of whom were old cavalry soldiers from King Edward's Horse and the Scottish Horse, and of good physique. On the 22nd a further draft of 150 arrived, mostly from the 3rd and 4th Battalions, well-trained men, with several good N.C.O.'s.

On the 25th October the 5th Division was again ordered to the front, and the 95th Brigade moved to Ridge Wood to act as Divisional Reserve in a third attack by the 5th Division on the Polderhoek Spur, the attack being made, in conjunction with an attack on Gheluvelt by the 7th Division, as subsidiary operations of the Second Battle of Passchendaele. The attack was carried out by the 13th Brigade and started at 5.20 a.m. on October 26th. At first all went well, and all the objectives of the 5th Division, including the château, were captured. Later in the morning, however, the château was recaptured by a German counter-attack, and by the evening both the 5th and 7th Divisions were back on their original line. The incessant rain and the resulting mud, which prevented the free use of Lewis guns and rifles against the German counter-attack, were to a great extent the cause of the failure of the operation.

The 95th Brigade remained in Divisional Reserve at Ridge Wood until the afternoon of the 28th October, when it moved up, via Sanctuary Wood, to the front line north of the Menin road and east of Veldhoek. The 1st Battn. East Surrey occupied the right sector of the Brigade front and extended southwards

from the Scherriabeek: on its right was a battalion of the 39th Division which had recently relieved the 7th Division. Owing to the comparatively dry state of the ground and the moonlight, the relief was fairly easy and was completed by 10 p.m. The men worked throughout the night, which was quiet except for intermittent machine-gun fire, and by dawn had much improved their cover. This was fortunate, as on the right of the Battalion the opposing lines, hereabouts 100 yards apart, bent back to the south-west, so that a German machine gun on the Menin road was able to enfilade the front trenches and sweep the ground in rear, rendering movement in advance of Battalion Headquarters impossible during daylight. During the last three days of the month the Battalion was fully occupied in further improving its defences, and the War Diary of the 29th contains the following record: "Our stretcher parties were allowed to pass down the Menin road from Battalion Headquarters unmolested, although in full view of the enemy's machine gunners some 400 yards away." The German regiment which behaved in this civilized manner was the 49th of the 15th Division.

The Battalion was relieved during the night of November 1st and withdrew to Ridge Wood, escaping during the movement with slight loss, though harassed by many gas shells in Sanctuary Wood and Plumer's road.

Yet another attempt to take the Polderhoek Spur was to be made by the 5th Division before the close of the Second Battle of Passchendaele. On this occasion the D.C.L.I. was the attacking battalion, supported by the Devons and two East Surrey companies, with the Gloucesters in reserve.

During the evening of November 5th the 1st Battn. East Surrey moved up from Ridge Wood to the position assigned to it for the coming attack, being guided during the latter part of its march across country by tape and the flash of a lamp.

Next morning at six o'clock the fourth attack on the château commenced and met with no more success than previous attempts. Later in the morning the two East Surrey companies moved forward and took over the front line.

The Flanders offensive of 1917 was now nearing its conclusion, and the 5th Division was under orders for a rest area. Accordingly, on the 7th November the 1st Battn. East Surrey assembled at Bedford House, known in 1915 as the White Château, and now a mere heap of bricks and rubble. Here it remained till the 10th, when it marched to Westoutre, leaving, for the last time as it proved to be, the desolation of the Ypres salient. A further move, partly by road and partly by rail, brought the Battalion on the 16th to Le West, nine miles east of Boulogne, where it remained for a week in comfortable quarters. The men recovered with wonderful rapidity from the strain and hardships of the Ypres fighting, and when the Divisional Commander inspected the Battalion on the 21st he complimented it as the smartest in his Division.

The undermentioned N.C.O.'s and men were subsequently granted decorations for conspicuous gallantry in the Polderhoek fighting:—

Distinguished Conduct Medal: Sergt. L. Child.

Military Medal: Sergt. E. Flynn; Ptes. G. E. Tagg, A. Ford, A. Moss, W. Pepper and D. Sutton.

On the 23rd November orders were received that the Division would move to Italy, and the prospect of such a change after the mud of Flanders was appreciated by all ranks. Next day the transport left for Hesdin, about fourteen miles west of St. Pol, and on the 25th the rest of the Battalion followed in lorries.

By December 1st about one-third of each Brigade had entrained and started, when the remainder of the Division were held up on account of the German counter-attacks in the Battle of Cambrai, 1917, as the railways were required for the transfer of reinforcements to the scene of action. Eventually, after several postponements, the 1st Battn. East Surrey left Hesdin in two trains on the 11th December and entered on a five days' journey which proved a very pleasant relaxation after the grim days of October.

The first day's journey was to Paris; on the 12th Lyons was reached, Marseilles at dusk on the 13th. At dawn on the 14th the first train reached Cannes and proceeded along the Riviera in brilliant sunshine, with the band playing in an open truck, past villages whose inhabitants bombarded the troops with oranges and clamoured for "corned beef" in exchange. At each station where the trains halted the Battalion received a warm welcome.

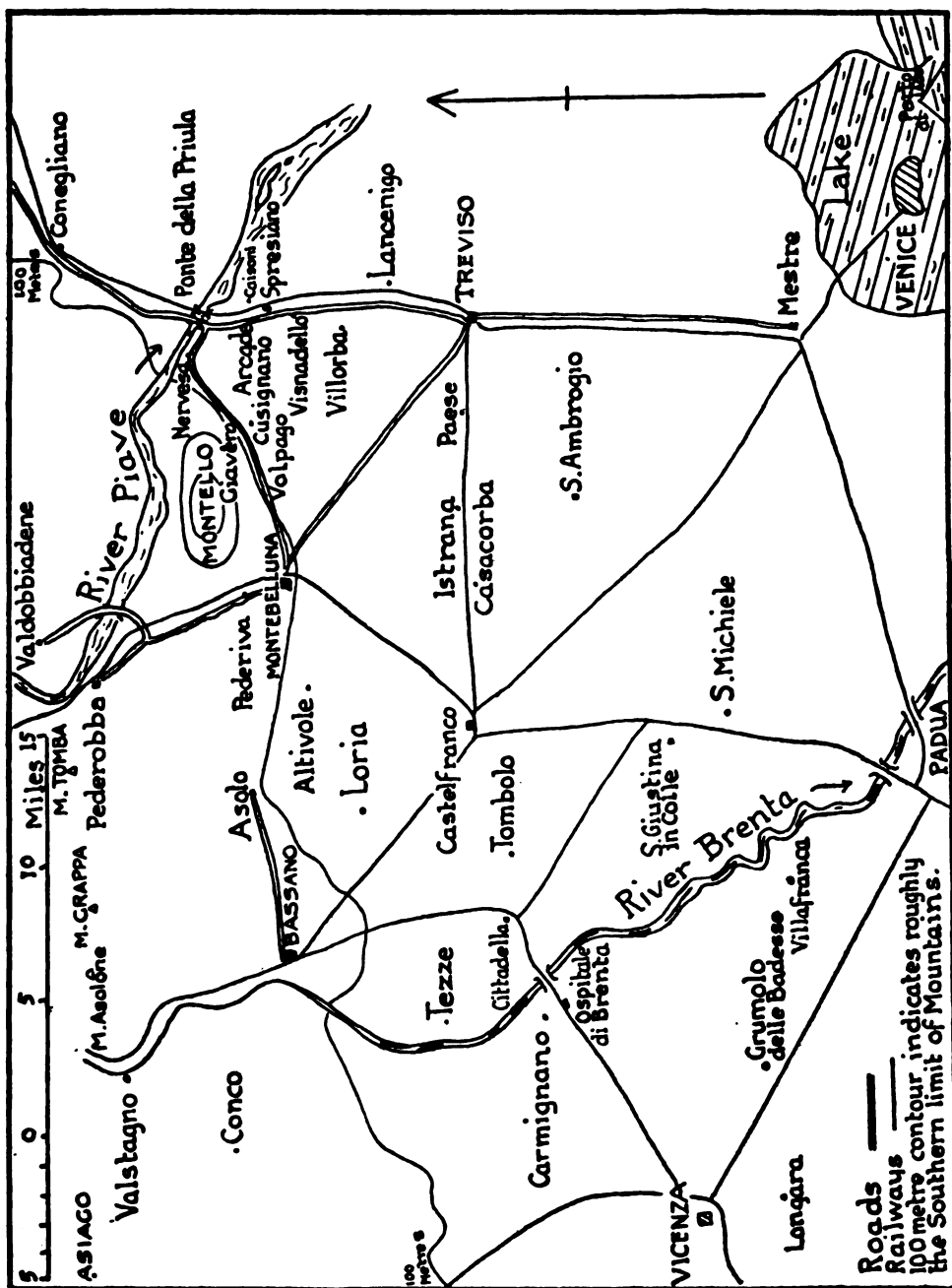
The Italian frontier was crossed at 10.15 a.m., and a halt was made at Ventimiglia. Savona was reached after dark, and Alessandria at dawn on the 15th. Passing through Pavia, Cremona, Mantua, Verona and Vicenza, the Battalion reached Ospitale-di-Brenta at 3.30 a.m. on the 16th December. Here the men detrained and breakfasted, marching afterwards twelve miles in a hard frost to St. Giustina-in-Colle, where sufficiently good billets were found.

At first there was some local prejudice against the presence of British troops, but the good conduct of the men and the music of the band soon established cordial relations, which continued during the service of the 1st Battn. East Surrey in Italy. The Battalion remained at St. Giustina-in-Colle for six weeks, occupied in training, during the course of which a divisional exercise, including the bridging and crossing of the River Brenta, was carried out before General Sir H. Plumer, commanding the British Forces in Italy. Christmas Day was duly celebrated, turkeys and pork being purchased locally and other supplies in Padua, about twelve miles to the south.

In order to understand the reasons for the prolonged stay of the 1st Battn. East Surrey at St. Giustina-in-Colle, it will be necessary to review the general situation in Italy about the date of the Battalion's arrival in that country.

After the Twelfth Battle of the Isonzo the Italian armies retreated during the first half of November, 1917, to the line of the River Piave, where their right (the Third Italian Army) covered Venice, while their centre and left extended westwards past Mount Tomba and the Asiago Plateau to Lake Garda.

In order to give the Italians an opportunity for reorganization it was arranged that the XIV Corps of the Tenth French Army, composed of French and British divisions, should take over a portion of the line where it bent westwards from the Piave. This relief was effected early in December, when a French division occupied the Mount Tomba sector and the 41st British Division (in which the 12th Battn. East Surrey was serving, see Chapter VIII) took over the



MAP TO ILLUSTRATE THE 1ST AND 12TH BATTALIONS IN ITALY, 1918.

Montello sector. The Montello is a ridge parallel to the Piave, which here runs from west to east, some twelve miles in length and at its highest 1000 feet in elevation, extending from Nervesa to Montebelluna.

The other corps of the Tenth French Army was the XI, commanded by General Haking, which consisted of the French 64th Division and the British 5th and 48th Divisions. This corps was posted in support on the River Brenta, below Bassano, where the river issues from the mountains, in readiness to prevent any Italian reverse in the mountain line being developed by the enemy, who, if unchecked, might break through into the plain and turn the Piave line. The 5th Division was in Corps Reserve, with its concentration area about Tezze, astride of the Brenta.

During the first three weeks of January the 1st Bttn. East Surrey Regt. continued its training at St. Giustina-in-Colle, so far as the nature of the country, with its small cultivated fields and vineyards, permitted. Reconnaissances on the Brenta were continuous, parties of two officers and a dozen men being sent for periods of four days to Palazzo Michiel, north of Bazzano. Parties were also sent to the same area to practice marching and climbing in hill country.

While at St. Giustina the New Year's *Gazette* was received containing a notification of the award of the Military Cross to the Adjutant of the Battalion, Captain J. C. Druce (4th Bttn. attd.), and of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to Sergt. F. J. Cooper.

By the middle of January the situation had so far improved that the British commanders, in order to assist the Italians, offered to take over another sector of the line to the right of the Montello. This offer was accepted, and on January 22nd the 95th Brigade moved off north-east to take over from the 48th Italian Division the Arcade sector on the River Piave. The route followed was via Istrana to Visnadello, whence on the 24th the 1st Bttn. East Surrey marched on to Spresiano, a small town near the Piave, which had been damaged by shell fire and abandoned by its inhabitants. Here Captain B. H. Geary, who had been severely wounded at Hill 60 when he won the Victoria Cross, rejoined the Battalion.

Spresiano was again lightly shelled on the 26th, on which date the 95th Brigade took over the Arcade sector, the 1st Bttn. East Surrey relieving the Italian 216th Regiment in the sub-sector Pilon right, on the Piave, north-east of Spresiano. Two companies were in front line, and Battalion Headquarters were at Caisoni. On the left was the 12th Bttn. Gloucester Regt. similarly disposed, while the 1st Bttn. D.C.L.I. was in support at Spresiano and the 1st Bttn. Devon Regt. in reserve at Visnadello.

In the Arcade sector the country was flat, but vines and mulberry trees limited the field of vision to 300 or 400 yards. The embankments of the Piave were about five feet in height, and their distance from the river varied from 20 to 400 yards. The river was over 1000 yards in width and flowed in several channels, separated by islands of sand and pebbles. In the main channels the water was swift and deep, while the narrower channels were fordable. The embankment along the right bank of the river marked the Allies' front line, which

consisted of a series of posts on the embankment itself, with cover trenches and dugouts in rear. The support line was a fire trench from 300 to 700 yards back, connected with the front line by good communication trenches. Some of the islands which lay between the embankment and the main channel were visited by patrols at night. On clear days the enemy's sentries could be discerned on the opposite embankment.

The 27th January was a quiet day, and at night the patrols went out led by Italian officers, one of whom had remained with each company. The remainder of the month passed uneventfully and pleasantly, with warm sunshine by day and frosty nights.

Having made several improvements in the defences, the Battalion was relieved by the Devons during the night of 3rd February and moved back into Brigade Reserve at Visnadello, where the billets were found to be very much too concentrated, in view of the constant bombing by night-flying aircraft. Next day General Sir H. Plumer inspected the Battalion and expressed himself as much pleased with its smart appearance. Another tribute to its marching had already been paid by an Italian general, who asked its name, observing that he had never seen a battalion which marched so well.

On the 10th February the 95th Brigade was relieved in the line by the 13th and became Divisional Reserve, the 1st Battn. East Surrey remaining at Visnadello as its advanced battalion. On the morning of February 18th the area occupied by the Battalion was shelled by a long-range gun. The companies moved out into the fields, and only three men were slightly wounded. That night the 95th Brigade relieved the 15th in the left sector of the Divisional front, the 1st Battn. East Surrey taking over Sub-sector L.3 (Ponte della Priula); three companies were in first line with the fourth in reserve. The strength of the Battalion this day was 40 officers and 835 other ranks.

On February 19th the enemy lightly shelled the support line, and a good deal of movement seemed to be going on behind his lines both by day and night. On the 20th and 21st there was desultory shelling by the enemy's artillery and considerable aerial activity on both sides. Just after dark on the 21st a small patrol, consisting of Captain Montanaro and Lce.-Cpl. R. G. Woodland, with Lieut. Fitzgerald and a N.C.O. of the 12th Battn. Gloucester Regt., surprised an Austrian post near Casa Samogin and captured two privates of the 3rd Battn. 61st Regt. Lce.-Cpl. Woodland was subsequently awarded the Military Medal for gallant conduct, resource and skill on this occasion. Lieut. A. E. Dempster was wounded on February 22nd.

On February 26th a patrol consisting of four officers found that the main stream was fordable from Gambero Island, which lay half a mile below the railway bridge. A party of the enemy was clearly seen in the bright moonlight 200 yards beyond the stream, but they made no attempt to attack the patrol. The enemy here seemed very unenterprising, and even neglectful of ordinary precautions. After dark on February 27th the 95th Brigade was relieved, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey moved back to Visnadello, where two companies were quartered in the Paper Mill and the remainder in billets. There was hostile

bombing from 1 a.m. till dawn, but no damage was done to the village. In the morning of the 28th February the village was shelled by a high-velocity gun, and Lieut. L. S. Hatton was wounded.

For some time arrangements had been in progress for an attack on Ponte della Priula, to be carried out by the 15th Brigade, but a rise of some feet in the River Piave during the first fortnight of March caused the contemplated operation to be postponed and ultimately abandoned.

Work on the Divisional Reserve line had necessarily been suspended in favour of preparations for the above-mentioned enterprise, and arrears had to be made up at high pressure prior to the expected relief of the 5th Division by the 48th Italian Division. The extra ammunition also, which had been collected for the operation, had to be returned, and for this purpose a working party of 150 East Surrey men was billeted at Carita, close to Lancenigo railway station.

The expected relief of the Division commenced on the 15th March, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey, less the working party at Carita, marched south-west to Paese. Next day a further move was made to good but scattered billets in the Sant Ambrogio area, where the Battalion was to undergo a course of six days' training. The training was varied by the Brigade Boxing Meeting on the 21st, at which the 1st Battn. East Surrey had four winners, and by a football match at Tasca, on the 22nd, against the Italian 241st Regt., which gave a very good game.

On the 21st March the German armies in France started their offensive in Picardy, and almost at once it became known that the 5th Division would return to France. Meanwhile on the 23rd the 1st Battn. East Surrey, with the remainder of the 95th Brigade, marched to the Sant Michiel area, and two days later, after crossing the River Brenta by a pontoon bridge, reached Villa Franca, seven miles north of Padua. Next day a further move was made to Grumolo Delle Badesse, where orders were received that the 5th Division would begin entraining for France on the 2nd April.

CHAPTER II

APRIL, 1917, TO MARCH, 1918 : THE 2ND BATTALION WITH THE BRITISH SALONIKA ARMY, IN THE ADVANCED LINE EAST OF THE RIVER STRUMA. THE WITHDRAWAL WEST OF THE STRUMA FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS. THE BATTALION NEAR LAKE DOIRAN AND ITS RETURN TO THE STRUMA FRONT. THE WINTER REOCCUPATION OF THE ADVANCED LINE BEYOND THE RIVER STRUMA.

TOWARDS the end of February, 1917, the Allied Commander-in-Chief on the Salonika front had instructed the Commander of the Salonika British Army to be prepared to undertake offensive operations at the beginning of April. These operations were to take the form of demonstrations on the Struma front and east of Lake Doiran, with an attack in force west of the Lake. The latter attack, which commenced on the 24th April, resulted in the capture of certain of the enemy's positions. Pending the development of events in this area, operations on the Struma front were postponed until the middle of May.

At midnight on the 2nd/3rd April the 2nd Battn. East Surrey was relieved at Barakli-Dzuma by the 2/5th Battn. Northumberland Fusiliers (84th Brigade) and, having crossed the River Struma, marched to the Gumus Dere, where it bivouacked. On the 4th the Battalion continued its march to Orljak, a village near the bridge by which the Salonika-Seres road crosses the Struma River. Here the men were quartered in the billets recently vacated by the 2/5th Battn. Northumberland Fusiliers. On the 6th the Battalion started training, which included physical drill, open warfare and gas-helmet drill.

On Sunday the 8th, which was Easter Day, there was a Brigade Church Parade, the Bishop of Buckingham preaching the sermon. Major-General Longley, commanding the 10th Division, attended the service, and the Battalion marched past him in column of route after the service. He complimented Lieut.-Colonel E. H. Nicholson on the smartness of the Battalion, and afterwards spoke to several N.C.O.'s and men who had served under him when he commanded the 1st Battalion in France. Special bombing and bayonet-fighting courses were now being held under Brigade arrangements, and bath-houses were available in Orljak. Secret orders had been issued for an intended attack on the villages of Ernekoi and Spatovo, five miles north of Barakli-Dzuma, and with this object in view the week following was spent by the Battalion in attack practices over trenches which were a replica of the enemy's trench system around those villages.

On the 14th April the Battalion moved back to the Gumus Dere, bivouacking there for the night, and on the following evening it again took over the trenches in Barakli-Dzuma from the 2/5th Battn. Northumberland Fusiliers.

Work was commenced the following night and continued till the end of the month on a new outpost line in front of No. 1 sub-sector, the line being pushed

24 THE 2ND BATTALION ON THE RIVER STRUMA FRONT

forward a further 200 yards. The enemy's artillery was active, frequently shelling the town of Barakli-Dzuma. The Battalion had patrols out nightly. The only casualty during the month was one man wounded. The strength of the Battalion at the end of April was 29 officers and 793 other ranks. During the month Sergt. A. J. Harding was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and Pte. W. Barker, who had been mentioned in despatches for gallantry at the Hohenzollern Redoubt, received the Military Medal.

During the whole of May the weather was intensely hot. The enemy was very active, shelling the front line frequently, but causing no casualties. On the 9th a hostile patrol, estimated at twenty strong, attempted to raid one of the sentry groups in the early hours of the morning, but was driven off by bombs and rifle fire. The Battalion sent out patrols each night, which generally managed to gain contact with the enemy. On the 11th a strong patrol was despatched at 1 a.m. to attempt to round up an enemy post, but the enemy was found to be in force and our patrol withdrew under heavy fire. One man was killed.

The operations on the Struma front were now about to assume a more active character, and on the 12th May the British artillery started registering on Spatovo and had two guns put out of action. On the 13th, eight British sea-planes flew over the enemy lines and bombed Ciftlidzik, a village two miles north of Spatovo. Final arrangements were now complete for an attack by the 85th Brigade on the enemy's advanced trenches, and at 6.15 p.m. on the 15th sea-planes again flew over and heavily bombed the enemy's camps behind Ernekoi and Spatovo. At 6.30 p.m., after an intense artillery bombardment, the 2nd Battn. "The Buffs" and the 3rd Battn. Royal Fusiliers, both on the left of the East Surrey, took and consolidated Ferdie and Essex trenches, capturing 79 Bulgar prisoners and one machine gun. During this attack the 2nd Battn. East Surrey co-operated by maintaining a heavy fire on certain of the enemy's positions, and its casualties from shell fire were 1 man killed and 1 wounded. At 1.45 a.m. on the 16th the enemy launched a counter-attack on the captured Ferdie Trench, which lay just to the left of the East Surrey front. The attack was beaten off, and morning showed several enemy dead on the wire.

On the 21st the Battalion received orders to take over Ferdie Trench from the 3rd Battn. Royal Fusiliers. The relief was carried out the same evening by B and D Companies, A Company going into support and C Company into Brigade Reserve in Ormanli.

On the 22nd "The Buffs" and Royal Fusiliers were ready for the attack on Ernekoi and Spatovo, and the 2nd Battn. East Surrey was actually moving into position to support them, when orders were received that all troops would cease fire and act entirely on the defensive. Dawn of the 23rd found quiet all along the British front, not a shot being fired, either by the enemy or ourselves. Rumours rapidly spread that there was an armistice; but this was soon proved to be false, for at 7 p.m. on the 24th orders were received by the artillery to resume their fire.

On the 25th a strong patrol under 2nd Lieut. N. S. Beale was sent out, supported by a covering party. Their objective was an enemy advance trench

SUMMER WITHDRAWAL TO THE RIGHT BANK OF STRUMA 25

known as "T" trench, about 400 yards in front of the enemy's line. The British artillery had orders to shell the trench and the enemy's line from 8.45 p.m. to 8.55 p.m., when the patrol would be within bombing distance. The going was very heavy, the grass in places being over six feet in height. Unfortunately, when the artillery ceased fire the patrol was observed by the enemy. It pushed forward, however, under heavy fire to within bombing distance, when 2nd Lieut. Beale was severely wounded. The patrol fought on gallantly and used their bombs with effect, but only three men out of the twelve returned unwounded. 2nd Lieut. Beale was lying out under the enemy's wire, which he was cutting when hit, but managed to crawl back after the firing had subsided. Pte. F. Bowers, who was one of the three unwounded, went back to help him, and brought him in under heavy fire. The casualties were 2nd Lieut. N. S. Beale¹ and 8 other ranks wounded and 1 man missing, who was afterwards found to have been killed. The Brigade Commander wired the following message to the Battalion: "The Brigadier wishes to congratulate the East Surrey Regt. on the plucky effort made by their raiding party to reach 'T' trench. He regrets the casualties, but fully realizes they were inevitable." Honours were awarded a few days later "for gallantry and devotion to duty" in this raid, 2nd Lieut. N. S. Beale receiving the Military Cross, and Lce.-Sergt. J. E. Roake and Pte. F. Bowers the Military Medal.

On the 25th the Battalion was relieved by the 2/5th Battn. Northumberland Fusiliers and marched back across the Struma. The following night it moved back to its old billets in Orljak, and on the 28th became Corps Reserve. The strength of the Battalion on this date was 27 officers and 849 other ranks.

June was an even hotter month than May, and the men were beginning to go down with fever. On the 7th the Battalion was on the move again to the Gumus Dere, and on the 8th took over the trenches at Dolop Wood and Barakli (a small village some 1500 yards south-east of Barakli-Dzuma) from the 1st Battn. Leinster Regt. (10th Division). The line was quiet and much work was put in dismantling dugouts and sending all corrugated iron, wood, etc., back across the Struma, as it had been decided as a health measure to abandon the advanced positions and to withdraw the XVI Corps to the foothills on the right bank of the Struma River for the summer months. B and D Companies of the 2nd Battn. East Surrey accordingly withdrew on the night of the 12th June, crossed the River Struma and marched southwards by a very rough road to Kochanmah. A and C Companies followed next day. About this time the enemy also withdrew to the foothills on his side of the Struma, so that the valley was left as No Man's Land for the summer months.

On the 14th and three days following the 28th Division having been withdrawn into Army Reserve, the 2nd Battn. East Surrey was again on the move, marching westwards by easy stages after sunset, and eventually reaching Yardemli on the 17th. A week later the Battalion marched east again, reaching the camp

¹ 2nd Lieut. Beale died in June, 1922, after an operation for this wound, which was in his head.

at Paprat on the 26th June. During the month Ptes. F. Beehoo and R. G. Ferri were awarded the Military Medal.

The month of July was uneventful and was spent at training. Lieut.-Colonel E. H. Nicholson went on leave to England on the 21st. The weather was very hot, and admissions to hospital were frequent.

On the 2nd August the Battalion started to march north-west across the southern foothills of the Krusha Balkan, and on the 4th reached Enzeli, ten miles south-east of Lake Doiran. From Enzeli it relieved the 2nd Battn. K.O.R. Lancaster Regt. in a trench line on the forward slopes of the hills overlooking Papovo and Lake Doiran. Work on the improvement and alteration of this line continued throughout the month.

On the 25th August a strong patrol, consisting of B Company and half C Company, under Captain K. Marshall, was sent out to reconnoitre the Hodza Redoubt and Brest, a village on the shore of the lake. Brest was found to be unoccupied, but a hostile patrol was encountered in the redoubt, a small mound situated about two miles from the foothills. The East Surrey patrol, having driven off the enemy, returned at 4 a.m. 2nd Lieut. Rice and two men were wounded by a trip bomb when returning through the gap in the British wire. These were the only casualties. Major C. G. Ashton joined the Battalion from England and took over command on the 26th, on which date the Battalion was relieved by the 7th Battn. Wiltshire Regt. and marched back to Yardemli.

September 7th saw the Battalion on the move back again to the Struma front, marching to Turbes by the way of the Sirt Dere, Mirova and Four Trees. Here Lieut.-Colonel E. H. Nicholson rejoined from leave and took over command. On the 10th the Battalion relieved the 5th Battn. Royal Irish Regt., taking over the river line known as the Orljak-Turbes line. This line was defended by breastworks, with the River Struma in front. Infantry patrols were active, but no enemy was encountered, nor were the cavalry more fortunate.

The intense heat during July, August and the first half of September had caused many cases of fever and heat-stroke, so that the effective strength of the 2nd Battn. East Surrey on the 15th September was reduced to 14 officers and 393 other ranks. This heat lasted well on into October, when rain set in about the 11th. Three days later the Struma overflowed and flooded some of the defensive works.

It had already been decided that the British troops, who in the early summer had been withdrawn from the Struma valley, should, on the approach of autumn, reoccupy their former positions on the lower ground. In accordance with this decision, on the 14th October the 27th Division, which lay on the right of the 28th, attacked and captured Homondos, on the left bank of the Struma, taking 149 prisoners. The same night the 85th Brigade took up a new position about three miles east of the river, occupying the line Nevolyen-Yenikoi. The 2nd Battn. East Surrey was in support, but was not called upon, as no opposition was encountered.

The Battalion remained in Corps Reserve at Orljak and had a month's hard digging on the new line, so that the trenches were a welcome change when, on

the 14th November, it relieved the Royal Fusiliers in the Nevolyen-Yenikoi sector, with Battalion Headquarters at Orljak Bridge. This outpost line consisted of a series of breastworks surrounded by wire, which were held by one battalion of the Brigade, the other three battalions being in support on the right bank of the Struma. The enemy was inactive except in the use of his aircraft, which frequently appeared over the British lines.

Winter had now set in and the cold was intense, especially when the Vardar winds were at their height.

On December 6th the enemy shelled one of the works held by C Company in front of Nevolyen, killing 2 and wounding 6 other ranks. On the 14th the 3rd Battn. Middlesex Regt. relieved the Battalion, which then marched back to billets in Orljak. Here it remained over Christmas, a day which was thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks.

On January 9th the 2nd Battn. East Surrey was selected for inspection by General Guillaumat, Commandant-en-Chef des Armées en Orient, who was accompanied by General Sir George Milne, Commanding-in-Chief British Salonika Force, and Lieut.-General Sir Charles Briggs, Commanding the XVI Corps. Unfortunately it was a pouring wet day, but the inspection took place, followed by a march past. The following extract from Special Orders of the Day were received the next day: "The Brigade Commander desires to convey to Lieut.-Colonel E. H. Nicholson, the officers and other ranks of the 2nd Battn. The East Surrey Regt., and to the massed drums of the 85th Infantry Brigade, the appreciation of the Commandant-en-Chef des Armées en Orient, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief British Salonika Force, and the General Officer Commanding the XVI Corps, on the splendid turn-out of all ranks to-day. General Guillaumat expressed his admiration for the manner in which, at the inspection of the 2nd Battn. East Surrey, the men handled their arms and marched past under conditions which were extremely unpleasant."

The G.O.C. XVI Corps wired: "My heartiest congratulations and very best thanks for producing a battalion on parade in keeping with the best traditions of His Majesty's Army. The Allied Commander-in-Chief, as you know, was delighted, and well he might be."

On the 14th the enemy unexpectedly shelled Orljak at 5 p.m. Apparently he had brought up a battery into Kalendra Wood, a copse some 1600 yards from the British outpost line and not usually occupied by the enemy. During the remainder of the month the Battalion was in Brigade Reserve, with one company in the outpost line for special patrol work.

On the 9th February, King Alexander of Greece motored up from Salonika to visit the Struma front. The 2nd Battn. East Surrey furnished a Guard of Honour outside the XVI Corps Mess. This Guard was 100 strong, under Captain E. Russell Gould.

The following is an extract from a personal letter received next day by Lieut.-Colonel E. H. Nicholson from the G.O.C. XVI Corps: "The Guard of Honour provided to-day by your Battalion filled me with admiration; it was superb and reflected great credit on all concerned."

On February 14th the Battalion moved up the Orljak nullah into camp for training, which lasted till the middle of March and consisted of mountain warfare, long marches and attacking trench systems. The evenings were welcomed by many, as the 28th Divisional Pantomime Company had set up their portable theatre in Orljak nullah. The pantomime was "Bluebeard," and was most excellently staged and acted.

CHAPTER III

APRIL, 1917, TO JULY, 1918: THE 1/5TH BATTALION LEAVES INDIA TO JOIN THE MESOPOTAMIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AND TAKES PART IN OPERATIONS ON THE TIGRIS.

WHILE stationed at Muttra the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey received orders on the 5th November, 1917, to prepare for service with Force "D" of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, and early in December received from the Depot of the 1/6th Battn. East Surrey a draft of 110 N.C.O.'s and men to complete it to war establishment.

On the 19th December the 1/5th Battalion, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel G. A. M. Roe, left Muttra with a strength of 27 officers and 1001 other ranks, and on the 21st embarked at Bombay in H.M. Transport *Egra*. Christmas Day was spent in the Persian Gulf, and on the 27th the Battalion disembarked at Busrah.

On the 7th January, 1918, the Battalion entrained for Amara, where it remained till the end of the month. The first ten days of February were spent on board the river steamer P. 21 and two flats lashed alongside of her, *en route* for Baghdad. On reaching that city the Battalion joined the 55th Infantry Brigade of the 18th Division, the other units of the Brigade being the 10th Jats, 94th (Russell's) Infantry, the 116th Mahrattas and the 239th Machine Gun Company.

After a stay of three weeks at Baghdad, which was frequently visited by hostile aircraft, the Battalion marched with the rest of the 55th Brigade to Samarra, at that time the most advanced British post on the River Tigris. Samarra, which was reached on the 18th March, is situated on the left bank of the river, about seventy miles north-west of Baghdad (see map opposite page 186).

British operations were now commencing on the River Euphrates, which resulted in the capture of Ana and about 3000 Turkish prisoners. In order to prevent the Turks on the Tigris from sending reinforcements to the Euphrates theatre, Column "C," which included the 55th Brigade, and the 17th Division advanced simultaneously on the 24th March from Samarra up the left and right banks respectively of the Tigris. The 17th Division advanced to Tikrit on the right bank, and Column "C" to a point level with Tikrit on the opposite bank and some thirty-five miles north of Samarra. No enemy was encountered, and, by the 1st April, Column "C" was withdrawn to Samarra, where it spent the summer of 1918.

The record of the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey is continued in Chapter XVIII.

CHAPTER IV

JANUARY, 1917, TO MARCH, 1918: THE 1/6TH BATTALION SERVES FOR TWELVE MONTHS WITH THE ADEN FIELD FORCE AND THEN RETURNS TO INDIA.

THE 1/6th Battn. East Surrey, as already recorded in Chapter VII of Vol. II, returned from the Murree Hills to Rawal Pindi in October, 1915, and was still at the last-named station at the commencement of 1917. It then formed part of the 5th Brigade, the other battalions being the 1st Battn. West Riding Regt., the 1/9th Battn. Middlesex Regt. and the Pasupati Regiment of Nepalese.

Early in January, 1917, the 1/6th Battn. East Surrey received orders to join the Aden Field Force. It entrained accordingly for Karachi, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel A. P. Drayson, on the 29th January with a strength of 28 officers and 830 other ranks, the Depot of the Battalion, under Captain B. S. Horner, being transferred to Bangalore.

The Battalion embarked at Karachi in the Hired Transport *Egra* on the 1st February, 1917, and disembarked at Aden on the 7th, coming under command of Major-General J. M. Stewart, commanding the Aden Field Force, which included also four battalions of Indian Infantry, the Malay State Guides, three squadrons of Indian Cavalry and some R.A. and R.E.

Previously to the arrival of the Battalion the course of events in the vicinity of Aden had been as follows: In July, 1915, the Turkish Yemen Army Corps occupied Lahej and Sheik Othman, the latter place being ten miles from Aden. British reinforcements arrived later, the Turks were pushed back and an outpost line was established, including Sheikh Othman, with both flanks resting on the sea.

Shortly after its arrival at Aden the Battalion furnished a company, which was relieved periodically, to the Flying Column at Halwan, and also despatched parties from time to time on reconnaissance duties. It was not till the 2nd August, 1917, that the Battalion was actively employed as a unit, and on that occasion it sustained no casualties. Two drafts joined the Battalion, the first in June, consisting of 123 other ranks; the second, in September, under 2nd Lieut. T. H. Wilcock, numbering 70 other ranks. On two occasions, in September and October, the Battalion furnished parties which landed at Shukra, sixty miles east of Aden, from R.I.M.S. *Dufferin*, but saw no fighting.

At the end of October the Battalion moved into camp at Sheikh Othman, and on the 12th November commenced their first tour of duty in the outpost line. On the 22nd the Battalion took part in the destruction of Jabir, a fortified post nine miles from the British lines. Jabir was captured by the 7th Rajputs, and the 1/6th Battn. East Surrey Regt. formed the rearguard during the withdrawal to the outpost line, sustaining no casualties, as the Turks did not press the pursuit.

On the 20th December a small column under the command of Lieut.-Colonel A. P. Drayson, consisting of the 1/6th Battn. East Surrey, with a section of a machine-gun company and a battery of the Malay State Guides, carried out a reconnaissance of Hatum, the defences of which were successfully destroyed. The General Officer Commanding Aden Field Force reported subsequently that this reconnaissance was particularly useful, and Lieut.-Colonel A. P. Drayson was awarded the Croix de Guerre and Signaller W. Wheatly the Médaille Militaire for their services in this action. On the 22nd December the Battalion covered the withdrawal of another battalion from Darb, losing 2 men killed and 3 wounded. For gallant conduct on the 20th and 22nd December respectively, Company Sergt.-Major W. Hawkins was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and Sergt. W. Featherstone the Military Medal.

On the 5th January, 1918, another operation was carried out against Hatum. The Battalion, having taken Hatum without much opposition, pushed forward about a mile beyond the ridge and dug itself in under rifle and artillery fire. When the order came to withdraw from this position, the Battalion entered upon a rearguard fight, in which its casualties were 4 killed or mortally wounded, and Major W. L. Sandover, Captain T. MacD. Baker and 23 other ranks wounded. Lce.-Cpl. G. Privett was awarded the Military Medal for great gallantry in bringing his Lewis gun into action under heavy machine-gun fire in this withdrawal.

The Battalion, to its great disappointment, now received orders to return to India, and reached Bombay in the Hired Transport *Arona* on the 14th January, 1918. On the 17th it arrived at Agra and became part of the Bareilly Brigade, commanded by Brigadier-General F. Glanville, and belonging to the 7th Meerut Division. The Battalion furnished a large number of instructors for the newly formed Indian Infantry units under training at Agra.

The record of the 1/6th Battn. East Surrey is continued in Chapter XXV.

CHAPTER V

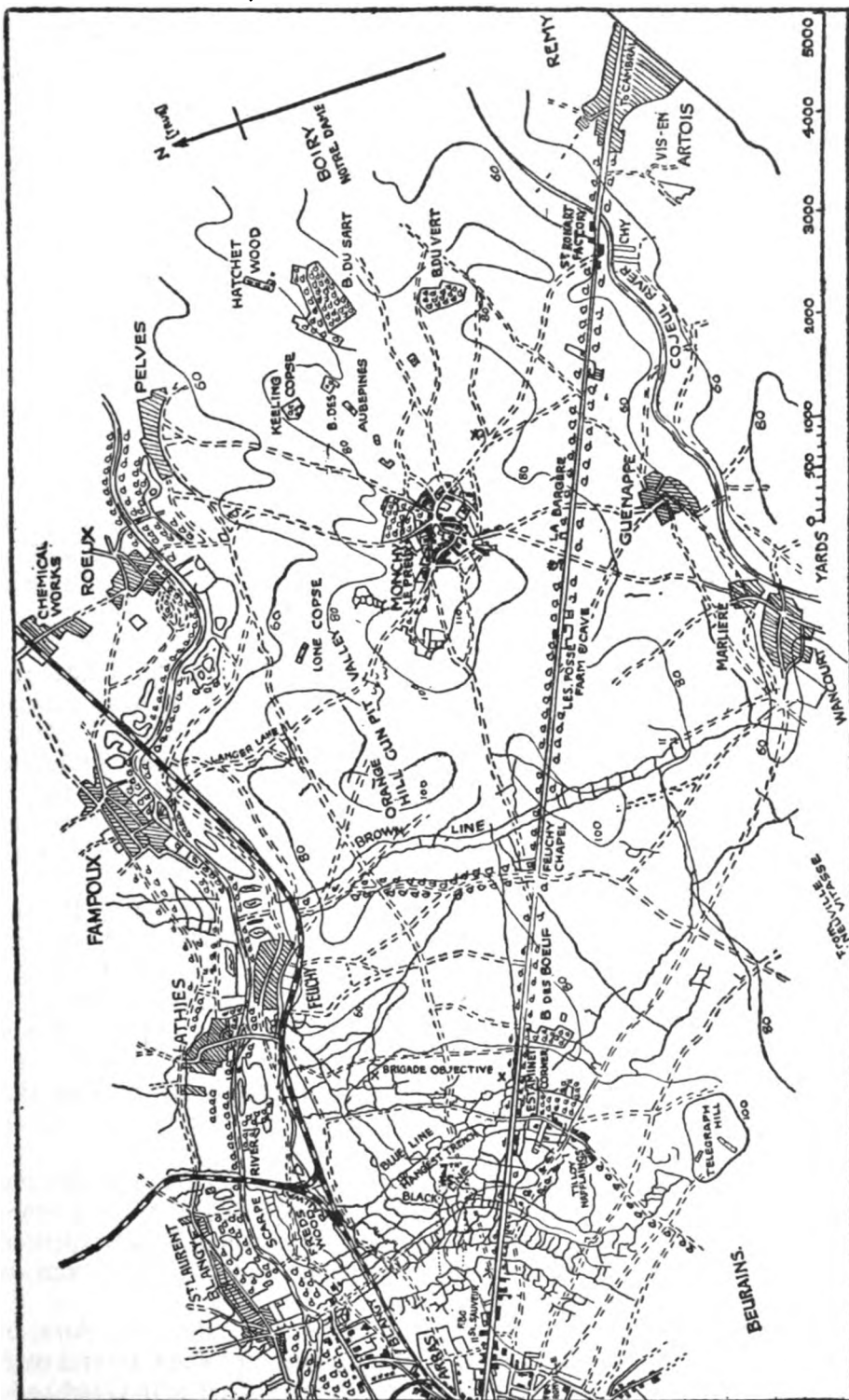
APRIL, 1917, TO FEBRUARY, 1918: THE 7TH BATTALION IN THE BATTLES OF ARRAS, 1917; IN ACTION EAST OF ARRAS IN THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE SCARPE, 1917, AND NORTH-EAST OF MONCHY-LE-PREUX IN THE THIRD BATTLE OF THE SCARPE, 1917; IN THE BATTLE OF CAMBRAI, 1917, THE BATTALION FORCES THE HINDENBURG SUPPORT LINE NEAR BONAIVIS AND TEN DAYS LATER SUFFERS HEAVY LOSSES IN THE GERMAN COUNTER-ATTACK ON THAT VILLAGE; THE BATTALION WITHDRAWN TO THE RIVER LYS AND DISBANDED.

THE 7th Battn. East Surrey, after its long tour of duty in the line near Arras, was now to take part in the Allied offensive known as the Battles of Arras, 1917. On the 9th April the First Army commenced the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and simultaneously the Third Army attacked the German trench systems east of Arras and as far south as Croisilles, thus opening the First Battle of the Scarpe, 1917.

In the Third Army the 12th Division, with the 3rd Division on its right and the 15th on its left, attacked nearly due east from Arras, placing the 36th and 37th Brigades in first line with the 35th in reserve. In the 37th Brigade, which was on the right of the 36th, the 7th Battn. East Surrey and 6th Battn. "Queen's" had orders to capture the enemy's first trench system as far as "the Black Line," after which they were to support the West Kent Regt. and "The Buffs" in the attack which those battalions were subsequently to make on the German second trench system as far as "the Blue Line."

The attack orders were clear and concise, and, thanks to the careful and repeated rehearsals which had been carried out in February over the model trenches, the operation was a great success. As will be seen, the casualties of the Battalion were somewhat heavy, and the loss of a large number of the best N.C.O.'s killed and wounded was severely felt, but the Battalion did its duty bravely and earned high credit. The incidents of the operation follow in diary form.

On April 1st working parties were found and general preparations for the coming offensive were carried out. On the 2nd the Battalion relieved the 6th Battn. "Queen's" in the trenches by night, taking over the whole of the Divisional front. On April 3rd the British bombardment became heavy. A Company was relieved by the 7th Battn. Sussex Regt. and returned to Arras, and on the 4th B Company was similarly relieved by the 6th Battn. "Queen's" and also went into Arras. This left C and D Companies holding the front about a mile east of Arras from which the Battalion was to attack, and these companies had a severe time in very wet weather, having to dig a new assembly trench and also keep the existing trenches in passable order. On the night of April 6th, A and B



III.—D

THE 7TH BATTALION IN THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE SCARPE, APRIL 9TH, 1917. SUBSEQUENT OPERATION MAP OF MONCHY-LE-PEUX SHOULD BE COMPARED WITH THIS MAP. See page 37.

Companies relieved C and D. During the 5th, 6th and 7th the British bombardment had been gradually increasing in intensity. The casualties in the Battalion had been so far very few, thanks to holding the line lightly and to good shelter in dugouts. On the 8th all equipment required for the attack was completed and the Battalion was assembled, the companies occupying battle positions in dugouts. During the night all wire was cut, and ladders and bridges put into position.

At 5.30 a.m. on April 9th the Battalion advanced to the attack, with the 11th Battn. Middlesex Regt. on its right and the 6th Battn. "Queen's" on its left. The Battalion "went over" with great promptitude at zero hour, and the enemy's barrage did not descend for three minutes, thanks to which delay the whole Battalion started without a casualty. The successive German trenches in the first system were taken in excellent style, the third German trench having been carried by 6.15 a.m., at which hour prisoners under escort began to reach the old British line. At 6.23 a.m. the forward Observing Officer reported that the "Black Line" (6th trench) had been captured. At 8 a.m., Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin moved forward Battalion Headquarters and at once corrected a slight deviation to the right from the true direction, in which the neighbouring battalions had shared. At this moment the West Kent Regt. were pressing forward over the captured ground towards their objective, the "Blue Line," from which direction the German machine guns and snipers were firing heavily. Under this fire Sergt. H. Cator, M.M., of the 7th Battn. East Surrey, greatly distinguished himself, working his Lewis gun over the open up to Hangest Trench. He killed many of the enemy and put a German machine gun and its crew out of action. With Sergt. Cator's assistance a bombing squad was able to work along the trench, with the result that 100 prisoners and 5 machine guns were captured. For his marked gallantry Sergt. Cator was subsequently awarded the Victoria Cross and Croix de Guerre.

The casualties of the Battalion in their advance to the "Black Line" were: *Killed* : Captain H. Potter; 2nd Lieuts. J. P. Mason, G. A. Adams, F. O. McEvoy (all of the 3rd Battn. att'd.), and 40 other ranks. *Wounded* : Lieut. C. W. Beadle, 2nd Lieut. Symes and 136 other ranks; a total loss of 6 officers and 176 other ranks, the strength of the Battalion on going into action being 674 of all ranks. The rifle fire of the Battalion was particularly effective in this attack, inflicting heavy loss on the enemy; and consolidation was well carried out, proving that officers and N.C.O.'s had profited by their instruction in this important feature of the attack.

At about 6 p.m. Major Nicolls, with 200 men, detailed as Divisional Reserve, moved down to a point on the Cambrai road to the east of Estaminet Corner, the remainder of the Battalion remaining in the position which it had captured. The services of Major Nicolls' party were not required, and at about 11 a.m. on the 10th it moved back to Hangest Trench.

On April 11th, Monchy-le-Preux, a village some five miles from Arras on the Cambrai road, was captured by British troops. South of the Cambrai road, however, progress was checked by the enemy's obstinate resistance in Guémappe,

Wancourt and Héninel. During the day the 37th Brigade moved forward in artillery formation to a point south of Monchy-le-Preux, preparatory to relieving a brigade of the 37th Division and cavalry in hastily dug positions on the eastern edge of Monchy-le-Preux, and northwards to Lone Copse. As it was found to be impracticable to carry out the relief before daylight on the 12th, the Battalion spent the night in shell holes under most unpleasant conditions with snow on the ground, and without any shelter from the incessant snow and sleet-storms. These bitter weather conditions prevailed during the whole of the 12th of April, and late that night the 12th Division was relieved by the 29th Division.

The 7th Battn. East Surrey then moved back to its original position in the old British line, the companies reaching their dugouts by 2.30 a.m. on the 13th. The day was spent quietly, and on the 14th the Battalion moved to Gouves, seven miles west of Arras. The men were much exhausted, but no one fell out.

On April 15th the Battalion marched to Humbercourt, six miles from Doullens. The day was very wet, but again no one fell out. At Humbercourt the Battalion had a full week's rest, marching on April 23rd to Lattre St. Quentin, on the 24th to Duisans and on the 25th to Arras. Here the next four days passed quietly, courses of instruction in the Lewis gun, etc., being carried out; and on the last day of the month the 12th Division returned to the front line about Monchy-le-Preux, the 7th Battn. East Surrey relieving the 7th Battn. Suffolk Regt. in the support trenches north-west of that village. The casualties during the month had been 4 officers and 55 other ranks killed or died of wounds, and 2 officers and 136 other ranks wounded.

The honours subsequently awarded in the Battalion for conspicuous services in the First Battle of the Scarpe, 1917, were as follows:—

Victoria Cross and Croix de Guerre with Palm : Sergt. H. Cator.

Military Cross : 2nd Lieut. P. Warburton.

Bar to Military Medal : Sergt. R. Chaney.

Military Medal : Sergts. A. G. Amos, S. Jackson, J. W. Mycock and R. Norman; Lce.-Cpls. W. C. Campbell and F. Morris; Ptes. J. Chinnock and C. R. Hoy.

During the last period that the 12th Division had spent out of the line the Second Battle of the Scarpe, 1917, had been fought on the 23rd and 24th April, in which Guémappe had been retaken by the British, who had also made some progress east of Monchy-le-Preux.

On the 2nd May the 7th Battn. East Surrey moved up to the front line north-east of Monchy and relieved the 6th Battn. "The Buffs." The portion of the front line taken over included, besides a number of fortified shell holes, Bayonet Trench and a portion of Rifle Trench recently captured from the Germans. There were no communication trenches. During the night of the 2nd/3rd May the 36th Brigade attempted to capture the remainder of Rifle Trench, but without success.

An extended attack by the British Third, First and Fifth Armies, reaching

from Fresnoy to Bullecourt, had been planned to take place on the 3rd May in order to assist the French in their attack on the Chemin des Dames, which was to take place two days later. Accordingly at 3.45 a.m. on the 3rd May, the first day of the Third Battle of the Scarpe, 1917, the 7th BATTN. East Surrey, with the 6th BATTN. "The Buffs" on its right and the 11th BATTN. Middlesex REGT. on its left, attacked the German trenches opposite them. The objectives were Gun Trench and Cartridge Trench. Owing to the absence of suitable trenches, forming up before the advance was very difficult, and in the darkness the direction of the attack could not be accurately fixed. Consequently, as soon as the attack was launched, touch was lost and the fighting was carried out by isolated bodies of men, who advanced bravely but without cohesion. The 7th BATTN. East Surrey reached its objective, but in the darkness left large bodies of the enemy untouched behind them, and ultimately a retirement to the old position became inevitable. Those of the Battalion who succeeded in reaching it had to fight their way back through these bodies.

The Battalion, together with the 6th BATTN. "The Buffs," was relieved by the 6th BATTN. "Queen's," supported by the 6th BATTN. Royal West Kent REGT., early in the morning of May 4th. The losses of the 37th Brigade in this action were very heavy: in the 7th BATTN. East Surrey they were as follows:—

Killed or died of wounds : Captains T. S. King and E. W. S. Leach; 2nd Lieuts. F. A. Colin, C. S. Dixon and A. L. Hovenden and 55 other ranks.

Wounded : Captain G. T. Wilkes; 2nd Lieuts. F. F. Boles and C. H. Stilwell and 88 other ranks.

Missing : 2nd Lieuts. J. L. McNaughton (wounded), F. W. Gee and P. Warburton were taken prisoners; 89 other ranks also were reported missing, but many of these rejoined on May 5th, having fought their way back through the Germans.

Many gallant deeds were performed in this action of the 3rd May by soldiers who held out in isolated posts, carried messages over ground practically in the enemy's possession and brought back small parties to the British line. For such services the Military Medal was afterwards awarded to Sergt. R. C. O'Brien and Ptes. S. Adams, W. Bolton, W. C. Brooker, F. Crawford, A. Francis and F. Landymore.

On relief, "The Buffs" and 7th BATTN. East Surrey moved back to Gunpit Valley, and during the night of May 4th retired further to the Railway Triangle near Arras. On the 6th the Battalion was busily engaged in cleaning up, and was reorganized into companies of two platoons. Drafts joined from the base, and the strength was brought up to 316.

Losses having been heavy all round no further rest could be given, and on May 7th the Battalion relieved the 9th BATTN. Royal Fusiliers in Lancer Lane. Here it remained for the next four days, supplying carrying and digging parties at night, until on May 12th A and B Companies, under Captain R. B. Marshall, took over the Support Line (Rifle and Bayonet Trenches) from the 6th BATTN. "Queen's," who were to attack Devil's Trench on the 13th. In this attack the

38 RETURN AFTER A REST PERIOD TO THE MONCHY TRENCHES

"Queen's" suffered very heavily, and on the night of the 13th May the Battalion relieved them in their trenches at half an hour's notice. The relief was a difficult one, but was successfully carried through.

The Battalion remained in the line without special incident until relieved by details of the 29th Division during the night of the 16th/17th May. Owing to the late arrival of part of the relieving troops the Battalion had to quit the trenches in broad daylight, but fortunately the morning was misty, and the companies were able to retire to Arras in small bodies. In the evening of May 17th the Battalion moved from Arras to Duisans, where the 18th was spent in bathing and cleaning up. On the 19th a further move was made to Gouves, where it remained training and exercising until the 24th, when it moved by motor-bus to Beaudricourt, a few miles north of Doullens. Here the Battalion remained till the end of the month carrying out training. On the 28th and 30th extended order training took place in Lucheux Woods, the 29th being devoted to Battalion Sports.

The Battalion passed the first half of June quietly at Beaudricourt, carrying on the usual training, musketry, etc., and the weather being pleasant there were also sports, horse shows, boxing competitions and other entertainments.

On the 18th June the Battalion left Beaudricourt for Gouy, and on the day following the march was continued to Arras. On the 23rd it was notified that Captain P. W. Hubbard (4th Battalion) had been commended by the Army Commander for acts of gallantry during an air raid on Arras.

The remainder of the month was passed uneventfully at Arras, every variety of special instruction being imparted to the men and different new inventions being tested, until on Sunday, June 30th, the Battalion took over the Monchy-le-Preux support line from units of the 36th and 168th Brigades.

On July 1st the Battalion moved up into support in the Monchy sector of the front line, two companies being quartered in caves near Les Fossés Farm, and two companies in Spade Trench and strong points south of Monchy. Here it remained, finding working parties at night for the repair of trenches, until July 6th, when it relieved the 6th Battn. "Queen's" in Long Trench in the front line, east of Monchy. On July 9th the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Battn. "The Buffs," and went back to the Wancourt reserve line. Casualties during the six days in support were 2 killed and 10 wounded, and during the four days in the line 3 killed and 2 wounded. An attack on some shell holes south of Long Trench had been intended on July 11th, but the enemy anticipated the attack and launched a heavy and successful assault on Long Trench and captured it. On the 13th the Battalion relieved the 6th Battn. "Queen's" in support (at Les Fossés Farm and Cave, Spade Trench and strong points), and on the 14th it relieved the 6th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. in the right half of the Brigade sector.

On the following day a reorganization of the sub-sector into a two-battalion front caused much work, and wet trenches made the progress slow. During the night of July 16th the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Battn. "Queen's" and went back to the Wancourt reserve line. Two hours later Long Trench was

attacked by the 6th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. and 9th Battn. Essex Regt., with partial success. On July 18th the Battalion was relieved in the Wancourt reserve line and moved back to Achicourt, near Arras, arriving there at 2.30 a.m. on the 19th. Here the Battalion lay until the 24th July, finding working parties at night in the front line.

During the night of the 24th the Battalion relieved the 9th Battn. Essex Regt. and 5th Battn. Royal Berkshire Regt. in the right battalion front of the Monchy sector. Two hours after the relief was completed (i.e. at 3.30 a.m. on the 25th) the enemy attacked with a very heavy preliminary barrage and captured Spoon Trench, which was immediately on the left of the line held by the Battalion. The Battalion sustained twenty casualties by noon, but its line and posts were held intact and blocks were made in the trench leading to Spoon Trench.

The Battalion remained in the front line for the remainder of the month, company reliefs being carried out on the night of July 28th. There was considerable activity throughout this period, particularly at night, but casualties were light and nothing noteworthy occurred. On July 31st the Battalion lost Major Nicolls, M.C., who had served with it as Adjutant from the date that the Battalion was raised, until Major A. H. Wilson was promoted to command a battalion in the Suffolk Regt., when Major Nicolls succeeded him as Second-in-Command. Major Nicolls had done excellent service throughout with the East Surrey, and was now given the command of the 5th Battn. Royal Berkshire Regt., with which he gained further distinction. He was succeeded as Second-in-Command of the 7th Battn. East Surrey by Captain L. D. Scott, who handed over the Adjutancy to Captain K. Anns.

The casualties during the month were 12 other ranks killed and 25 wounded. For conspicuous service as snipers or on patrol during July, the Distinguished Conduct Medal was awarded to Lce.-Cpl. H. Edgington, and the Military Medal to Lce.-Cpl. G. H. Savage and Ptes. W. H. Cammack and G. Mapston.

The Battalion was relieved from the front trenches by the 6th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. during the night of July 31st and moved into support in the Monchy sector about one in the morning of August 1st. At 6 p.m. on August 2nd the enemy opened a heavy bombardment on the British lines, which by 8.45 p.m. was intense. At about 9.30 a considerable number of the new mustard-gas shells were sent over. Two of the East Surrey runners, Ptes. F. C. Fox and F. W. Peach, got through to the Battalion in the front line and brought back word that the enemy had attacked the whole Divisional front, and after capturing certain points had been ejected with heavy loss. For this good service, Pte. F. C. Fox (M.M. and Bar and Médaille Militaire) received the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and Pte. Peach the Military Medal. The losses in the Battalion were very light (eight killed or wounded), owing to the enemy's bad shooting.

On August 3rd, 2nd Lieut. P. King was killed when on duty with a working party, and three casualties from shell fire occurred on the 4th. The Battalion was relieved as support in the Monchy defences by the 6th Battn. "The Buffs" on August 5th, but was not withdrawn from its position, as a raid had been planned

for August 8th, which owing to heavy rain was not carried out till 7.45 p.m. on the night of August 9th. This raid, which was on a large scale, was executed by picked detachments from the 6th Battn. "The Buffs," 7th Battn. East Surrey and 7th Battn. Suffolk Regt. (in the order named from left to right), and was highly successful.

The raiding party, provided by the Battalion and commanded by Captain H. F. Ward, was divided into three parties as follows:—

"A." 35 men, a Lewis gun and 4 Royal Engineers, under 2nd Lieut. C. V. Farey.

"B." 26 men, a Lewis gun and 4 Royal Engineers, under Captain H. F. Ward.

"C." 30 men, under 2nd Lieut. C. S. Calver.

The three parties moved out of their dugouts in Hill and Shrapnel Trenches at 6.30 p.m. and reached their forming-up positions with very slight loss. At 7.45 they advanced under cover of the 18-pounders' barrage, and all gained their objectives, "A" party sending on a covering patrol beyond the furthest objective. This party captured a machine gun, and its Engineers blew in the shaft of a dugout. About 50 dead Germans were found in the trenches and shell holes captured. "B" party took 15 prisoners, killed an officer and 11 or 12 men. "C" party met with fairly heavy rifle fire, but killed about 40 of the enemy and blew in both entrances of a dugout which appeared to be occupied. This party also sent in 7 prisoners.

In addition to the large number of the enemy killed and captured, the raiding party did great damage to the German trenches and destroyed their wire. The barrage of the 18-pounders and 4.5's was highly effective and was gratefully appreciated. The casualties incurred in this carefully prepared, gallantly executed and successful raid were heavy. 2nd Lieut. C. V. Farey was mortally wounded, and 9 men were killed and 5 reported missing. 2nd Lieut. C. S. Calver and 21 men were wounded. For their services in this raid, Captain H. F. Ward and 2nd Lieuts. Calver and Farey were all awarded the Military Cross; Sergt. A. W. Bennett received the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and Sergt. R. C. O'Brien a clasp to his Military Medal; while the Military Medal was awarded to Cpl. J. Meadowcroft, Lce.-Cpls. G. Hurd, F. Spratley and E. Nash, and Ptes. F. Burrell, S. C. Chaplin, W. Rowe, P. St. Aubyn and A. Woodgate.

On August 11th the Battalion moved back to Bois du Boeuf, two miles east of Arras, and on the following day the 37th Brigade relieved the 35th Brigade in the "Brown Line." Brigadier-General Cator went on leave and Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin took over command of the Brigade, while Captain L. D. Scott, promoted Major on August 13th, commanded the Battalion.

The Battalion remained in the "Brown Line" until August 18th, the trenches being daily shelled, but casualties were very light. Working parties were found at night. On the 18th the Battalion relieved the 6th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. in the Cambrai road sector of the Monchy line, and remained there until the night of the 22nd August, when, on relief by the 6th Battn. "Queen's,"

it moved to the support position at Les Fossés Farm and Spade Trench. On the 26th August the 6th Battn. "The Buffs" relieved the Battalion in support, and it moved to Arras for eight days' training and rest. The remainder of the month was consequently devoted to a steady course of inspections, drill and musketry. The casualties during August had been:—*Killed or died of wounds* : 2 officers and 23 other ranks. *Wounded* : 1 officer and 37 other ranks.

September was an uneventful month, devoid of any striking incident, and its tale may therefore be told quite briefly. Having completed its eight days' training at Arras, the Battalion moved on the night of September 2nd to the support position at Les Fossés Farm, where it remained until the 6th, finding the usual working parties by night.

On September 6th it relieved the 6th Battn. "Queen's" in the front line, where it was visited by the Brigadier on the 7th and by Major-General Scott on the 8th. Trench mortars were active by day, but the nights were quiet. On September 10th the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Battn. "The Buffs" and moved back to the "Brown Line." The Battalion remained in the "Brown Line" without special incident until September 19th, finding the usual night working parties. The first four days were extremely quiet. On the 15th the 50th Division made two successful raids against Cherisy under excellent barrage and smoke barrage. The Battalion had a fine view of these operations. On the 17th, 18th and 19th the German artillery and trench mortars became increasingly active, but all was quiet when the Battalion relieved the 6th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. in the front line in the evening of the last-named day. The artillery activity continued, particularly after a successful raid against Long Trench by the battalion on the immediate left of the 7th Battn. East Surrey on the 22nd. Casualties, however, were quite light until the 23rd, when the fire was very heavy and a German attack seemed imminent. The Battalion was relieved at night by the 6th Battn. "Queen's" and went into support. The enemy's attack was made on the 25th, on a front of about 1000 yards, but was stopped by our artillery, only reaching the wire at one point. On September 27th the Battalion was relieved in support by the 6th Battn. "The Buffs" and moved back to Arras, where it passed the remainder of the month. Brigadier-General Cator returned from leave on the 28th, and Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin resumed command of the Battalion. The casualties during the month were 14 other ranks killed and 16 wounded.

October, like September, was a somewhat uneventful month. The Battalion remained at Arras until October 5th, supplying working parties and training as usual. One hundred N.C.O.'s and men underwent a special training in raid work under Major Scott. At 7 p.m. on the 5th the Battalion entrained on the light railway and went up into support, moving on the night of the 6th to the front line, where it remained until October 10th, when it went back on relief to the support line.

Brigadier-General Ingledon-Webber took over command of the 37th Brigade on October 9th from Brigadier-General Cator, who had been promoted to the command of a Division. Brigadier-General Cator had commanded the

37th Brigade for two years. Throughout that period he had done much to increase its welfare and efficiency and had won the respect and confidence of all ranks.

The Battalion remained in the support line working on and improving the accommodation in the trenches and strong points until the 18th October. The raid which had been preparing was carried out very successfully and on a large scale on the 14th. The parties contributed by the 37th Brigade were found by the "Queen's" and "The Buffs."

On October 18th the Battalion relieved the 6th Battn. "The Buffs" in the front line, the relief being carried out in perfect quiet and without casualty. The 19th to 21st October were also very quiet days in the trenches, advantage of which was taken by much hard work on the trenches and on wiring. The enemy appeared fully occupied in digging out his front line, which was still in a very damaged condition from the raid of the 14th. The enemy put down a light barrage on the 22nd in the afternoon, causing four casualties, but the 23rd was quiet, and on the 24th the Battalion was relieved by a battalion of the 4th Division which was taking the place in the line of the 12th Division. The Battalion on relief marched to the Brigade rendezvous near Tilloy, and went thence in lorries to Bonnières (seven miles north-west of Doullens), arriving at 7.30 a.m. on the 25th.

Major Scott went on leave on the 27th, and Captain R. B. Marshall held the command until the return from leave of Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Baldwin on the 26th. The month ended without incident. The casualties during October were 2 men killed and 3 wounded.

The Battalion remained at Bonnières, carrying on the usual training and musketry, until November 7th, when it marched north-west to Humières. The distance was fifteen miles over very bad roads, but the Battalion marched excellently. On the 8th it carried out a practice attack with tanks on the Eclimeux training ground. The practice was very suggestive, broad belts of wire being easily crushed. November 9th was devoted to rest and cleaning up, and the 10th to practice on the rifle range. On the 11th (Sunday), the Mayor of Bonnières kindly arranged a day's shooting for the officers. The sport was not remarkable, but much good feeling was shown and the "entente" firmly established. Next day an unusual incident is recorded in the Diary: "Major Scott shot a fine fox very early in the morning and earned the undying gratitude of the *garde-du-village*, to whom he presented the skin."

On November 13th the Battalion practised a tank attack over taped trenches in conjunction with the 6th Battn. "The Buffs." The Commander-in-Chief watched the attack and expressed himself as much pleased by it. On the 14th the transport moved by road from Bonnières to Haut Allaines, and on the 16th (after a final practice over on the taped position) the Battalion moved by rail from Bouquemaision to Peronne, arriving about 7 p.m. At 8 a.m. on the 17th it marched to Haut Allaines, continuing the march north-eastwards in the evening to Heudecourt, about 8½ miles over very bad roads and in the dark, arriving at 9 p.m.

THE 7TH BATTALION IN THE BATTLE OF CAMBRAI, 1917 43

On November 18th final orders were issued for the coming surprise attack which opened the Battle of Cambrai, 1917, for which a large force had been collected with complete secrecy. The Adjutant and company commanders went at 5 p.m. by a taped route to the Brigade assembly position behind Gonnellieu, finding their way with much difficulty through the darkness. There was no activity on the enemy's side, and there seemed to be every hope that a surprise would be effected, as indeed it was. The 19th was a day of final preparations and of comparative peace and quiet. The last stores were issued, and at 11.35 p.m. the Battalion moved off to its assembly position, 200 yards south-west of Gonnellieu, arriving there at 3.30 a.m. November 20th. Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin and Captain Anns, the Adjutant, visited Brigade Headquarters, where there was a general exchange of good wishes for the coming battle.

The plan of attack on the selected portion of the German line south of Cambrai was briefly as follows: There was to be no preliminary bombardment, and the attack was to rely for success on an undetected concentration and on the destruction of the German system of wire defences by a novel use of a great number of tanks. These were to charge the wire on a broad front, and the infantry, which had been specially trained to advance in suitable formation through the gaps thus made and then to deploy with the utmost rapidity, was to seize its various objectives, selected points in the Hindenburg Line. The cavalry was then to pass through the new line to break down bridges and cut railways on the enemy's lines of communication, so that a counter-attack by the Germans should be rendered impossible until the captured ground had been securely fortified.

The force allotted for this operation was the Third Army, under Lieut.-General the Hon. Sir Julian Byng, and the III Corps (6th, 20th and 12th Divisions) was detailed to form the right of the attack. The Divisions were placed in the order named from left to right, and the 12th Division was therefore on the extreme right of the attack, with the special task of forming a defensive flank facing south-east after the German positions had been captured. The 12th Division was to attack on a Brigade front, using the 35th and 36th Brigades to capture the Hindenburg Line and its outer defences in the vicinity of the Gouzeaucourt-Bonavis road, and reserving the 37th Brigade to attack the Hindenburg support line in conjunction with the 36th Brigade, and subsequently to carry out the intended formation of the defensive flank, in the neighbourhood of Bonavis.

Seventy-two tanks were allotted to co-operate with the 12th Division, and as, owing to there being no preliminary bombardment, it was known that our artillery fire would not be effective against strong points in the German lines, brigades were instructed to rely on tanks, combined with enveloping movements of infantry, to effect their capture. We can now proceed to the narrative of the attack, confining our attention, as usual, principally to the 7th Battn. East Surrey.

At 6.20 a.m. on the 20th November the zero barrage opened, and, after an intense bombardment lasting six minutes, the tanks could be seen in the half-

44 THE ADVANCE ALONG THE GOUZEAUCOURT-BONAVIS ROAD

light crawling up the slope east of Gonnellieu (see map opposite page 46), followed by the 35th and 36th Brigades. Very fortunately there was no hostile artillery retaliation on the area where the 37th Brigade was assembled only a mile from the German line.

At 6.50 a.m. the Battalion moved forward at the head of the 37th Brigade, advancing by platoons northward along the road which led past the north-western outskirts of Gonnellieu. At the exit from the village enemy shrapnel was bursting on the road. The British front line was only 400 yards east of Gonnellieu, so in a very short time the leading platoon of C Company, with Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin, Captains Anns and Golds in front, was in No Man's Land. Here the hostile barrage was fairly heavy, especially on the sunken La Vacquerie road, which was therefore avoided. The Battalion gradually shook out into artillery formation after leaving the village, and was soon advancing astride the main Gouzeaucourt-Bonavis road, with two companies on either side. German machine guns and snipers were still firing from Sonnet Farm, though the leading brigades had passed far beyond it and were now taking the Hindenburg Line. Similar fire from isolated German posts was met with throughout the attack, as the advance was so rapid that there was not sufficient time for effectual mopping-up at any point before the rear brigade arrived on the scene. Captain Farquharson-Roberts, commanding B Company, was unfortunately shot through the head and killed by a bullet from Sonnet Farm. He was a most gallant soldier and a great loss to the Battalion.

C and A Companies on the left flank slightly lost their direction through moving along a valley which took them away from the road, but were retrieved by Captain Anns and by 9 a.m. were ready in position west of Bleak House, from which point the 37th Brigade was to lead in the attack on the Hindenburg Support Line. On the right of the road, B and D Companies were slightly delayed by a German strong point in the cottages, south of Bleak House, which still held out on their right, and for a few minutes the Battalion Headquarters details had to be utilized in protecting the exposed flank of the companies north of the road, in which service they sustained a number of casualties. At 9.8 a.m., however, two sections of tanks arrived and, having dealt with the strong point in the cottages, enabled B and D Companies to continue their advance, which was harassed all the way by heavy machine-gun and rifle fire. The two companies, however, rushed position after position, covering their advance by their own fire and admirably assisted by the tanks, which dealt with all difficult points as they presented themselves. Finally, they effectively demolished the German wire, rolling sedately over it.

Meanwhile on the left of the road C Company was advancing towards its objective without much difficulty, capturing on the way between 80 and 100 prisoners. A German Colonel, with his Adjutant and full staff, after some difficulty was enticed out of a dugout by 2nd Lieut. E. Jordan. Three machine guns were also taken here. A Company (Captain Ayres) then passed through C Company and advanced against its objective, the Hindenburg Support Line, rushing a signal station held by machine-gun fire on the way. This exploit cost the life

of Captain Ayres, another very good company commander, who was killed in the German wire by a machine gun, which was captured with its crew. After capturing their objective, C and A Companies set to work to consolidate their new position.

South of the road, Bleak House Brickfields offered but little resistance, and D Company, with 2nd Lieut. H. P. Willcox at the head, charged a battery in position a little further on, capturing 4 guns and about 70 prisoners. One platoon of B Company, under 2nd Lieut. E. A. Kemp, then passed through with some men of the 6th Battn. "The Buffs," who were closely supporting the 7th Battn. East Surrey. Le Pavé Farm was captured, and a mixed party of "The Buffs" and B Company 7th Battn. East Surrey pushed on and captured their final objective, a portion of the Hindenburg Support Line south of the road and 400 yards beyond Le Pavé. The rest of B Company had already taken its allotted portion of the Hindenburg Support Line north of the road, in conjunction with A Company, whose movements have been described, and the whole Battalion now set about consolidating, fronting to the right, viz. south-east, in accordance with its orders, while the remainder of the 37th Brigade passed through to attack Bonavis village and Lateau Wood. The total of captures by the Battalion were 4 field guns, 4 machine guns and about 200 prisoners, including the German Colonel and staff already mentioned.

The losses were Captain D. Farquharson-Roberts, M.C., Captain Ayres, 2nd Lieut. S. H. Humphreys and 19 other ranks killed, and 2nd Lieut. R. W. Sanderson and 99 other ranks wounded. The award of the Military Cross to Captain Farquharson-Roberts was notified among the New Year honours in the *London Gazette* of the 1st January, 1918, for good and meritorious service from February to September, 1917.

During the night of November 20th the Battalion was relieved by the 9th Battn. Royal Fusiliers. The relief took a long time, as the night was very dark and there was great difficulty in finding the way to the isolated strong points; but by 8 a.m. on the 21st the Battalion was under cover in the Hindenburg Support Line. The line now taken up was worked at during the day, and strong points were constructed in order to make a support position in rear of the 6th Battn. "The Buffs," who were holding Bonavis. In the afternoon the Battalion sent two platoons to hold Le Quennet Farm, which was to form a support to the Lateau Wood position. The 22nd November was a fairly quiet day. The Battalion found working parties which carried wire up to battalions in front line. The 23rd, 24th and 25th were also fairly quiet days. It was arranged that the 37th Brigade front was to be held by two battalions with one in support; the fourth battalion resting some seven miles to the south-west of Bonavis, at Heudecourt, where the Divisional Reserve was located.

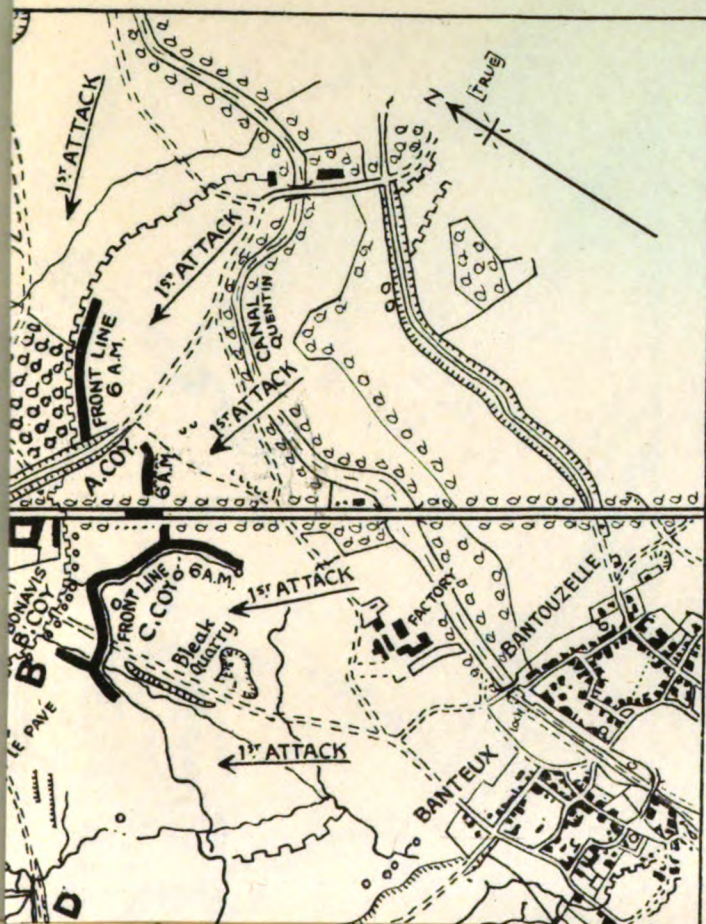
Late on November 26th the 7th Battn. East Surrey relieved the 6th Battn. "The Buffs" in the front line, which now extended round a spur of the hill on which stood Bonavis and overlooked the St. Quentin canal, facing roughly south-east. The front line, which was about 1000 yards in length, was held by a series of small posts provided with good dugouts, and was garrisoned by C and A

Companies, commanded by Captain I. T. Golds. The other two companies were in support, occupying part of the Hindenburg Support Line nearer Bonavis. November 27th passed quietly, and preparations were made during the night for wiring the front on the following night. An extension of the Battalion's front was also decided on, opposite Bleak Quarry, which the enemy was still holding. This westward extension of the line was occupied by C Company on the following night. The 28th and 29th November were again quiet days, and both nights were spent in wiring the front and improving the new trench on the right. The storm, however, was about to burst.

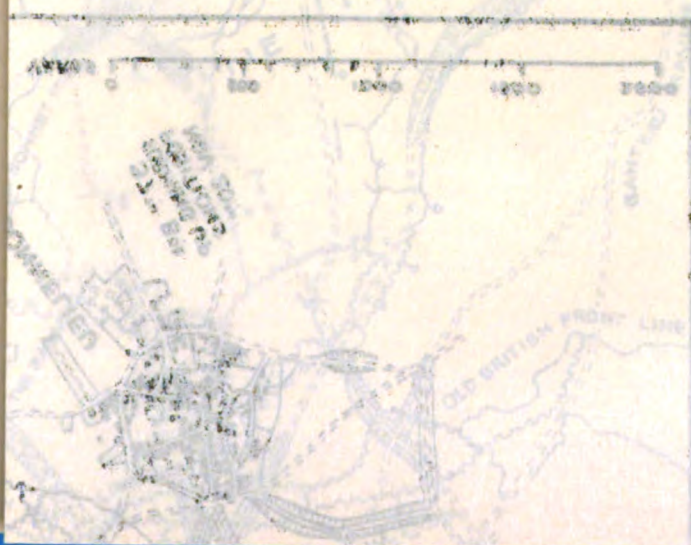
Early on the 30th November the enemy's artillery fire on the Bonavis area appeared to be increasing, and by 7.30 a.m., when it was still fairly dark, the bombardment had become intense. Shortly afterwards the Battalion's advanced post near the canal on the Bantouzelle road (see map opposite) was overwhelmed by a strong hostile column, and the posts to the westward fell back, to avoid being cut off. About the same time another German column was observed east of Bonavis advancing out of a smoke-screen, and was fired on by the Lewis guns of A Company. These two columns, which formed part of the four German divisions launched against the British line from Masnières to Banteux, forced back A and C Companies, and by 8 a.m. had captured the greater part of Bonavis and Pam Pam Farm.

Meanwhile another German column, which had broken through the British line west of Bleak Quarry, wheeled north-east about 8 a.m. and attacked B and D Companies in the Hindenburg Support Line, and at some points succeeded in gaining a footing therein. Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin, who had moved Battalion Headquarters back from Pam Pam Farm to a point near the right flank of D Company, there got in touch with Lieut.-Colonel Smelzer, commanding the 6th Battn. "The Buffs." With one company of "The Buffs" and about 200 East Surrey men whom he had collected, Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin then counter-attacked south-eastwards with his right moving along the Hindenburg Support Line. This counter-attack drove the Germans back south of the Gouzeaucourt-Bonavis road, and touch was regained on the left with parties of the Battalion who were still holding out in Bonavis.

About 10 a.m., Major L. D. Scott, having noticed indications of the enemy's presence in the direction of Lateau Wood and Le Quennet Farm, hastily collected a party belonging to various battalions of the 37th Brigade and manned a shallow trench running east and west some 200 yards north of Pam Pam Farm. From that position he held up the enemy's advance west of Lateau Wood for a considerable time, but eventually German troops coming through the wood turned his right flank and also drove back the main body of the Battalion, under Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin, slowly north-eastwards along the Hindenburg Support Line. It resulted, therefore, that when the remnant of Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin's command reached the point where the Hindenburg Support Line crossed the Pam Pam Farm, La Vacquerie road, they found themselves cut off, as the enemy had brought to bear on the road the converging fire of three machine guns. Every man of the party who attempted to cross the road was at once shot down,



LIFE OF CYRILUS MOREWISSE 1911



and the enemy following up along the trench were attacking with bombs in overwhelming force. The party was finally reduced to Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin, who was slightly wounded, Captain and Adjutant Anns and about 20 men, of whom 10 were wounded: Captain H. F. Ward, M.C., who was originally with the party, having been killed while putting up an aeroplane flare. When the German bombers suddenly appeared within three yards of the party, further resistance appeared to be useless, and Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin surrendered about 1.30 p.m.

Meanwhile, Major Scott had with fine courage and determination succeeded in collecting and extricating a party of 87 East Surrey men. This party, with about 30 men of the Royal West Kent Regt., joined the 6th Battn. "The Buffs," now reduced to 6 officers and 150 other ranks, under Lieut.-Colonel Smelzer, who took command of the whole. He decided to hold the old German communication trench (north of the Pam Pam Farm-La Vacquerie road), which connected the Hindenburg Support Line with the Hindenburg Line north-east of La Vacquerie, his left flank being thrown back for a short distance northwards along the Hindenburg Support Line. This position was held until 3.30 p.m., when orders were received to withdraw and occupy a new position in another old communication trench running north and south, about one mile north-east of La Vacquerie.

Lieut.-Colonel Smelzer's command was now termed the 37th Brigade Battalion and it successfully held its ground, while the enemy, who was in considerable strength but had lost heavily, dug themselves in some 150 yards away. Night came, but no rations were brought up, and it was rumoured that the enemy was also in La Vacquerie and that the little force was consequently cut off. The determination of all to hold their ground remained, however, unaffected.

The 1st of December was a most trying day for the survivors of the Battalion, who had suffered during the night from hunger and thirst, and were now greatly exhausted, having been closely engaged with little rest for twelve days. Throughout the day the German artillery put down a heavy barrage on the ground in rear of the La Vacquerie trenches, and it seemed at one time doubtful if the line could be held. But the remnant of the 37th Brigade was staunch, and stood its ground until, about 1.30 a.m. in the morning of December 2nd, relief came in the shape of a battalion of the Worcester Regt. The remains of the Brigade then withdrew to the support line about Villiers Plouich, which lay a little over a mile to the west of La Vacquerie. In the support line the Battalion, which could now muster only 2 officers and 87 men, out of about 550 of all ranks who had been holding the Bonavis trenches at dawn on the 30th, commenced to reorganize, and on December the 3rd it moved back to Heudecourt, arriving there at 9 p.m. in a very exhausted condition. On December 4th the remains of the Battalion were temporarily organized as a company, under command of Lieut. R. A. Halford, each of the companies forming one platoon. New clothing was issued to all the men. The Battalion left Heudecourt on December 5th and marched to Tincourt, where it halted for five hours and then entrained for

Bruyère, arriving there early on the 6th. The Battalion thence made a march in the dark to Millencourt, which proved very trying to the men, as it had been too cold in the train for them to get any sleep. After resting at Millencourt till 6.20 p.m. on the 7th the Battalion marched into Albert, where tea was issued and two blankets per man supplied. The Battalion then entrained, and after a comfortable night journey arrived at Thiennes, near Aire, at 6.30 a.m. on December 8th. After breakfast and a small rum issue the Battalion marched to its billets at Boeseghem, where the remainder of the month was spent in a course of regular training combined with specialist classes.

The casualties in the German counter-attack of the 30th November were as follows:—

Killed : Captains L. T. E. Case, I. T. Golds and H. F. Ward, M.C. ; Lieut. G. W. Board ; 2nd Lieuts. E. A. Kemp, D. F. Moffatt and H. P. Willcox, M.C., and 96 other ranks.

Over 100 N.C.O.'s and men were wounded.

The honours awarded for conspicuous service in the Battle of Cambrai, 1917, were:—

Bar to Distinguished Service Order : Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Baldwin.

Bar to Military Cross : Captains L. D. Scott and H. F. Ward.

Military Cross : 2nd Lieut. H. P. Willcox.

Distinguished Conduct Medal : Sergt. A. G. Amos.

Bar to Military Medal : Sergt. A. Francis, Cpl. A. F. Hobden and Lce.-Cpl. W. C. Brooker.

Military Medal : Sergt. T. Dwan ; Cpls. R. Keen and T. Bartlett ; Ptes. J. Atkinson, R. J. Miles, S. Stone and W. Strudwick.

Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin, Captain S. F. Ayres and Regtl. Quartermaster-Sergt. H. S. Cellem were mentioned in despatches.

Major L. D. Scott was promoted Lieut.-Colonel at the age of twenty-two and appointed to the command of the Battalion in succession to Lieut.-Colonel Baldwin. The new Commanding Officer originally enlisted in the Battalion when it was first raised, and after passing rapidly through the non-commissioned ranks was given his commission within a few months of first joining. He succeeded Captain Nicolls first as Adjutant and later as Second-in-Command on the 31st July, 1917.

The Battalion remained at Boeseghem during the first four days of January. On the 1st a telegram was received from the King's Private Secretary thanking the officers and men of the 7th Battn. East Surrey for their good wishes to His Majesty for Christmas and the New Year. On January 2nd the Battalion, with the remainder of the Brigade, paraded before General Sir H. Horne, Commanding First Army, for inspection and for the distribution of decorations. On the 5th the Battalion marched fourteen miles over frozen roads to Bleu Doulieu, in the Vieux Berquin area. This was no easy task, but was well accomplished. On the 7th, specialist classes were started for training bombers, Lewis gunners, rifle bombers, etc. This instruction, varied by football, continued till the 12th

January, when the Battalion marched to Sailly-sur-la-Lys and took over the bridge-head defences there. There had been a rapid thaw, and the roads were consequently in a very bad state.

On the 13th the Battalion moved up to the trenches and took over the Bois Grenier sector from the 13th Battn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers. It remained in the trenches until the night of January 29th, a long tour, but not specially eventful. There was a burst of artillery activity from the 23rd to the 25th, some casualties being caused. Among them was Company Sergt.-Major W. A. Bird, M.M., of A Company, who was killed.

On January 21st, Lieut.-Colonel L. D. Scott received the sad news that, owing to the reorganization of the Army on the basis of three battalions to a Brigade, the 7th Battn. East Surrey was shortly to be disbanded. This news caused great depression, although every endeavour to soften the blow was made by the authorities. Copies of the letters on the subject received by Lieut.-Colonel Scott are printed at the end of the chapter.

On the night of January 29th the Battalion was relieved in the trenches by the 11th Battn. Middlesex Regt., and all were in billets at Sailly-sur-la-Lys by 12.40 a.m. on the 30th. The Battalion was engaged on working parties all this day and the 31st.

During the three first days of February the Battalion was engaged as before on working parties. The morning of the 4th was spent in the same way, but in the afternoon orders were received for the disbandment of the Battalion. The orders were to the effect that all, except the Headquarters, the transport and the Quartermaster's department, would proceed next morning to join the 8th, 9th or 13th Battalion. B Company was allotted to the 8th Battalion, A Company and half C Company to the 9th Battalion, and D Company and half C Company to the 13th Battalion, and many of the individual members of these companies gained further distinction in the battalions to which they were drafted.

In the evening there was a Battalion Sing-song, during which Lieut.-Colonel Scott made his farewell speech to the men, some of whom had served with him since the Battalion arrived in France in June, 1915. Brigadier-General Ingledon-Webber came in later and made a farewell speech which was much appreciated by all.

At 10 a.m. on February 5th the Battalion, except the few remaining with its Headquarters, was conveyed on the first stage of its journey to strange units. The drums of "The Buffs" played the men to their lorries, and when they started played "Auld Lang Syne." "And this," says the Battalion Diary with perfect truth, "was the end of a very fine Battalion, the first Kitchener Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment."

Of the Battalion Staff, Lieut.-Colonel L. D. Scott, a most gallant and capable officer, was given command of another battalion; while Lieut. and Quartermaster G. W. H. Rowe, to whom the 7th Battn. East Surrey acknowledged a debt of gratitude for his devotion to duty and unremitting care for its material comforts throughout its existence, became later on the Quartermaster of the 1st Battalion.

Copy of letter from Brigadier-General Ingledon-Webber, Commanding 37th Infantry Brigade:—

4th February, 1918.

DEAR SCOTT,

From to-morrow your Battalion as such will cease to form part of the 37th Infantry Brigade. It is with the greatest regret, common to all ranks of the Brigade, that we must need say "Good-bye."

Since the formation of the Brigade, the 7th Battalion has not only upheld the high traditions of the Regiment, but has created for itself a reputation for staunchness, reliability and fighting qualities of which all belonging to the Regiment may well be proud, as this Brigade already is.

I wish all ranks 7th Battalion East Surrey Regiment, the best of luck.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) A. B. I. WEBBER.

Copy of letter from Major-General Sir A. B. Scott, K.C.B., D.S.O., Commanding 12th Division:—

DEAR SCOTT,

I very much regret that the reorganization of the Army has necessitated the reduction of your Battalion. I am sure, however, you will accept the situation in a true soldier-like spirit, and take it on a broad point of view, and realize it is for the good of the Army and our country.

During my command of the Division the 7th Battn. East Surrey Regiment has always distinguished itself by its fine fighting qualities, and by its smartness and excellent discipline. From the fighting at the Quarries in October, 1915, to that at Cambrai in November, 1917, the Battalion has invariably done well, and I have at all times felt the greatest confidence that it would carry out its task with dash and gallantry. You may all well be proud of the part you have taken, and the manner in which you have upheld the traditions of the East Surrey Regiment.

I personally feel your disbandment very much, and I ask you to convey to everyone my grateful appreciation of their work.

The best of good luck to all, and be certain the 12th Division will never forget you and your deeds.

(Signed) A. B. SCOTT,

Major-General,

Commanding 12th Division.

Lieut.-Colonel L. D. SCOTT, M.C.,

7th Battalion East Surrey Regiment.

One more letter remains to be quoted before we bid farewell to the senior of the East Surrey Service Battalions. It gives a brief résumé of the record of the Battalion and formed part of the following article which appeared in the *Surrey Advertiser and County Times* of the 1st June, 1918:—

THE 7TH EAST SURREYS—WHAT THE BATTALION DID IN FRANCE.

Addressed to the Mayor of Kingston, the home of the East Surrey Regiment, the following letter from Lieut.-General C. F. M. Macready, Adjutant-General to the Forces at the War Office, relating to the doings of the 7th Battalion, largely recruited from Kingston and surrounding districts, especially Cobham, Leatherhead and Epsom, was read at the Kingston Town Council meeting on Tuesday evening, in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Lord Ashcombe, who was present as representing the King in connection with a ceremony reported under a separate heading:—

“I forward the following brief statement of services rendered to the country during the present hostilities by the 7th Service Battalion East Surrey Regiment, feeling sure that it will be of great interest to you and to all those connected with the Regiment. The recent reorganization of infantry in France involved the disbandment of certain battalions, amongst which is the 7th Service Battalion East Surrey Regiment.

“This Battalion was raised in August, 1914, and, after undergoing training at Colchester, Purfleet, Sandgate and Aldershot, went to France with the rest of the 12th Division in June, 1915, landing June 2nd. It received its introduction to trench warfare near Armentières, being attached to the 27th Division. Subsequently it held the line in that area till the end of September. It then went to Vermelles, and helped to hold the positions north-east of that place, which were captured in the attack of September 25th. It had heavy fighting on October 8th, and again on the 13th, when it made a very successful attack on Gun Trench, clearing out a very troublesome German lodgment. It remained in this neighbourhood for some time. By January 6th, 1916, it had already received one D.S.O., one M.C., five D.C.M.'s and twelve 'mentions.'

“In February and March, 1916, it was in the Loos salient near the Hohenzollern Redoubt, and distinguished itself by repulsing German attacks on March 3rd and 18th. It was specially commended in Sir Douglas Haig's despatch of May 30th, 1916. In July it moved to the Somme, was in Divisional Reserve in the attack on Ovillers and La Boisselle on July 3rd, but was in action at the beginning of August, and near Gueudecourt in October up to December 31st. Further rewards given to the Battalion included two M.C.'s, two D.C.M.'s and eighteen M.M.'s.

“In the beginning of 1917 the Battalion was in line near Blangy, then near Arras, and took part in the successful attack of April 9th east of Arras. It captured six lines of trenches with many prisoners, Sergt. Cator winning the V.C. for conspicuous gallantry. It was heavily engaged in the fighting round Monchy-le-Preux in May, and remained in that area all the summer, repulsing an attack on August 2nd, and carrying out a most successful raid on August 9th-10th. On November 20th it took a most successful part in the attack on the Hindenburg Line, taking four 77 mm. field guns, four machine guns and over 200 prisoners. In the German counter-attack of November 30th it put up a most

stubborn resistance, held on after the units on its flanks had been pushed back and lost most heavily, its Commanding Officer being taken prisoner. The Battalion was then moved to the Bois Grenier area, and was disbanded there on February 18th, its personnel being drafted to the 8th, 9th and 13th Battalions. It had present on February 18th, 1918, 91 of those who landed on June 2nd, 1915.

"Few Service Battalions have achieved a record like the 7th East Surreys, and the honours included 1 V.C., 2 D.S.O.'s, 13 M.C.'s, 17 D.C.M.'s, 66 M.M.'s, 25 'mentions,' besides bars to M.C.'s and to M.M.'s, and foreign decorations. In every engagement in which this Battalion took part it upheld the brilliant and glorious traditions of the East Surrey Regiment to which it belonged.

"Although the 7th Battalion has been disbanded, the officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men have not been lost to the East Surrey Regiment: they have all been drafted into other battalions of the East Surrey Regiment, and will continue to uphold the name and traditions of this Regiment with the same spirit, loyalty and esprit de corps as they have done in the 7th Service Battalion."

The Mayor, on the conclusion of the reading of the letter, said he was sure they were all more than proud of the record of their East Surrey men. It was a magnificent record, and they were living up to their reputation. A very large number of the lads were prisoners of war, and they were making a special effort to keep them supplied with food, because without such help many of them would be starving. In the last financial statement, it was shown that Kingston had raised £1700, and he felt sure they would raise the £2000 they set out to secure.

CHAPTER VI

APRIL, 1917, TO MARCH, 1918 : THE 8TH BATTALION IN THE BATTLES OF ARRAS, 1917 ; IN THE THIRD BATTLE OF THE SCARPE, 1917, AT CHERISY ; IN THE BATTLES OF YPRES, 1917, IN THE LINE IN SANCTUARY WOOD, AND IN THE FIRST BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE NEAR POELCAPELLE ; THE BATTALION MOVES SOUTH TO THE FRONT LINE NEAR THE RIVER OISE, SOUTH OF ST. QUENTIN.

AT the beginning of April, 1917, the 8th Battn. East Surrey was still at Wittes, seven miles south-west of Hazebrouck, undergoing the latest forms of training. Special attention was devoted to precautions against the effects of lachrymatory shells, and the general trend of training was in preparation for "open" rather than "trench warfare," as the 18th Division was soon to take part in the Battles of Arras, 1917, the first of the "Allied Offensives, 1917."

On the 17th April the Battalion was warned to be in readiness to move at short notice to billets in or near Béthune, and on the 20th marched accordingly to Lambres. Next day it joined the Brigade column at Ham-en-Artois and with it reached Béthune that afternoon. The whole Battalion, less the officers who were billeted, was quartered in the French barracks in that town.

After a week in Béthune the Battalion marched on the 28th to Brias, whence it proceeded by rail to Arras. Thence it marched three miles south-east towards Neuville-Vitasse, and on the 30th April occupied "Telegraph Hill" trench, a part of the Hindenburg Line, which had been captured on the 9th April by troops of the Third Army in the First Battle of the Scarpe, 1917.

The Second Battle of the Scarpe (23rd-24th April), fought while the Battalion was at Béthune, resulted in further British progress east of Arras, and the 18th Division was now to take part in the Third Battle of the Scarpe, 1917.

In the evening of May 1st the Battalion left Telegraph Hill Trench and relieved the 7th Battn. "Queen's" in the front line, half a mile west of Cherisy, and the 7th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. in the support trenches (see map opposite page 54). One man was killed and four were wounded during the relief. On May 2nd orders were received for the coming battle, and Cherisy amongst other places was shelled by our heavy guns. Preparations for the attack were made during the day, and at 10 p.m. Battalion Headquarters moved forward from the Quarries known as "The Rookery" to the Gun Pits near the front line. One man was killed and one wounded during the day.

The attack on the 3rd May, 1917, was launched on a front of over sixteen miles extending from Fresnoy, north-east of Arras, to Bullecourt in the south-east. Cherisy was somewhat south of the centre of the battle. The village lies on the western slope of the valley of the Sensée River, which at this point is only two or three yards wide, and runs roughly north-east. The slopes on either side

rise to about 100 feet above the river. Before the action the British front line, which was roughly parallel to and 1200 yards west of the river, was just below the western crest of the intervening ridge, and the German front line (Cable Trench) lay a short distance below the eastern crest of the same ridge, so that one line of trenches could not be seen from the other. The width of No Man's Land was about 300 yards. The ground had been but little cut up by shell fire and afforded only slight cover, as the slopes were very gradual. The weather had been dry for some days and the going was good.

In the attack the 18th Division had the 14th Division on its left and the 21st Division on its right. The attack of the 18th Division was carried out with the 54th Brigade on the right and the 55th Brigade on the left. The 54th Brigade was held up at the German front line, and did not break through, with the exception of a small party of the 7th Bttn. Bedfordshire Regt., which reached Fontaine Wood. The 55th Brigade attacked with the 7th Bttn. "The Buffs" on the right and the 8th Bttn. East Surrey on the left, each having two companies in front line, one in support and one in reserve. The 7th Bttn. Royal West Kent Regt. was in support, with one company (under Captain Latter) detailed to act as "moppers up" for the northern half of Cherisy, for which portion only of the village the 55th Brigade was responsible. The 7th Bttn. "Queen's" was in reserve.

The 8th Bttn. East Surrey attacked with A and B Companies, under Captain Rhodes and Captain Ackerley respectively, in the front line; C Company, under Captain Lonergan, in support; and D Company, under 2nd Lieut. Macmillan, in reserve. The night of the 2nd May was fine and clear, with a brilliant moon, and the task of forming up for attack was carried out without a hitch. The assembly tape was laid out by Captain Rhodes and Captain Ackerley at midnight and all companies were in position at 2 a.m. on May 3rd, by which time the moon was just setting. The men were in boisterous spirits, and there was very little hostile shelling.

The attack was launched in intense darkness at 3.45 a.m. It was difficult to see the ground underfoot and impossible to distinguish enemy from friend, so that units became a good deal mixed up, and small parties of the enemy lying in shell holes were passed by unnoticed. The whole of the Battalion was clear of the British front line before the enemy barrage came down, and, in spite of heavy rifle and machine-gun fire and the confusion caused by the darkness, pushed on and captured the northern half of Cherisy without much difficulty. Of the garrison some were killed, a few taken prisoners, while many escaped, or hid in dugouts or shell holes. 2nd Lieut. Macmillan had been ordered to halt D Company in the German front line, but was unable to do so owing to the darkness and noise of the barrage.

Keeping close to the barrage, the 8th Bttn. East Surrey, and the left company of "The Buffs," under Captain Black, continued their advance to the first objective on the lower slopes of the spur east of the Sensée River, which was reached as it was becoming fairly light. There they reorganized and consolidated the position as much as was possible in the limited time at their disposal. On the

left of the 8th Battn. East Surrey the 8th Battn. Rifle Brigade had also reached the first objective.

At 5.35 a.m. the Battalion Headquarters of the 8th Battn. East Surrey were established at St. Michael's Statue, north of Cherisy, and ten minutes later the barrage lifted and two waves went forward towards the final objective, the enemy again retreating and suffering considerable losses. The situation report was carried to Brigade Headquarters in under an hour by Pte. E. Good, one of the Battalion runners, who had to go through rifle and machine-gun fire and a heavy enemy barrage; a fine service for which he was awarded the Military Medal.

The second advance took time, but by 8.45 a.m. the 8th Battn. East Surrey, together with a few " Buffs," were in possession of Olga Trench, the final objective, and were spread out at wide intervals along the whole Divisional front. As the left flank was fairly well protected by two Vickers guns which had been sent forward for the purpose, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin ordered Captain Latter's company of the West Kent Regt., which had been placed at his disposal, to move up and prolong the East Surrey line to the right, and endeavour to gain touch with other troops. This movement was skilfully and gallantly carried out by Captain Latter, but no touch was gained on the right. The position was now a most extraordinary one. With some of the 8th Battn. Rifle Brigade on the left, some " Buffs," and Captain Latter's company of the 7th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. on the right, the 8th Battn. East Surrey had penetrated to a depth of about a mile and a quarter into the German position, carrying out its programme with punctuality and precision. The left was only prolonged by a very weak line of the 14th Division, and the right was entirely in the air. The northern half of Cherisy was quite clear of the enemy, who, however, had not been attacked at all in the southern half of that village. Lieut.-Colonel Irwin sent frequent situation reports to Brigade Headquarters, and orders were given to the 7th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. to send up their second and third companies to support the East Surrey. Unfortunately, however, the Officer Commanding the West Kents had been severely wounded, which probably accounts for the fact that the orders were not carried out. Thus for four hours the few troops who had reached the final objective were completely in the air and a mile and a quarter in advance of the remainder of the attack. It was evident that they must either be supported by other troops on the flanks or withdraw, as they were in danger of being cut off by the German infantry, which, skilfully aided by their artillery, gradually reoccupied the whole village of Cherisy.

By 11 a.m., however, it was clear that no support was coming, and Lieut.-Colonel Irwin decided to withdraw from the advanced position and take up a line along the northern and western outskirts of Cherisy. The Battalion had successfully driven off several weak counter-attacks, but at the moment that the retirement was contemplated a fresh attack was made on the front and left of the weak line. The enemy being in force on the right, and also in the village in their rear, the companies began to retire slowly, the enemy following close upon them. On the right the losses were heavy, and but few men escaped. None can have got through the village of Cherisy or past its south side; on the left the

few remaining officers endeavoured to rally the men on the new line west and north of Cherisy, but with only a partial success. The *morale* of the men was not shaken, but owing to the noise of the artillery and rifle fire it was impossible to make orders heard. Eventually the whole of the 55th Brigade retired to its original position, in which it was established by noon, the Germans making no attempt to advance beyond their original front line in Cable Trench. At 7.15 p.m. an attempt was made by two other battalions to recapture Cable Trench, but after severe fighting and heavy loss the attack failed. The 8th Battn. East Surrey remained in their trenches facing Cherisy during May 4th, and the enemy being comparatively inactive, the companies were reorganized and the losses checked.

In the action at Cherisy the losses of the 8th Battn. East Surrey were very heavy, as were those of all units of the 55th Brigade. The Battalion, as will be seen from the above narrative, was admirably handled by Lieut.-Colonel Irwin, whose initiative and skill were subsequently recognized by the award of a clasp to his Distinguished Service Order, an honour rarely granted. The conduct of the officers and men of the Battalion was also worthy of all praise. The men went into action with great cheerfulness and retained their steadiness in the most trying conditions. The casualties were as follows:—

	Officers.	Other Ranks.	Total.
<i>Killed :</i>	4	29	33
<i>Wounded :</i>	4	171	175
<i>Missing (Captured) :</i>	5	156	161
			Total 369

The names of the officers included in the above list were:—*Killed :* 2nd Lieut. H. V. Brown, F. T. Harrison, P. J. Seater and R. H. W. Upton. *Wounded :* Captains R. Rhodes and E. C. Gimson (R.A.M.C.) ; Lieuts. N. G. W. Handcock and J. W. Hockney. *Wounded and missing :* Captains A. R. Ackerley and C. J. Lonergan ; 2nd Lieuts. G. S. Facer and J. F. Macmillan.

Many officers and men distinguished themselves at Cherisy by their gallantry and devotion, none more conspicuously than Captain E. C. Gimson, the Battalion Medical Officer, who had won the Distinguished Service Order at Montauban and had behaved gallantly on many occasions. Captain Gimson had served with the Battalion since it was raised, and was very popular with officers and men alike. At Cherisy he was severely wounded. All the company commanders also were very severely wounded ; so much so that only one of them (Captain Rhodes) could be carried off the field.

It was notified during the morning of May 4th that the Battalion would be relieved that night, and the relief by the 6th Battn. Royal Berkshire Regt. began at 9 p.m. and was finished by 11. The Battalion then moved back into camp at Beaurains, where it remained carrying out progressive training until May 15th, when it marched to a new camping ground near Boyelles, about six miles south of Arras. Here but a few tents were allotted, and the greater part of the men had to construct shelters for themselves.

In the afternoon of May 21st the Battalion returned to the front, occupying the reserve trenches. Here it remained until the 27th May, finding working parties both by day and night for the upkeep of communication trenches. Only three casualties occurred during this period, 2nd Lieut. R. H. Lawrence (son of Colonel H. D. Lawrence, formerly of the 2nd Battn. East Surrey) and two men being wounded.

In the evening of May 27th the Battalion relieved the 7th Battn. "The Buffs" in the front line and remained there until the end of the month. The enemy's artillery showed much activity, but caused no casualties.

The Battalion was relieved on the 2nd June by a Battalion of the 54th Brigade and returned to the camp near Boyelles, where information was received on 4th June that the following had been mentioned in despatches by Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, Commander-in-Chief, dated 4th April, 1917: Major O. C. Clare, M.C., Acting Regtl. Sergt.-Major C. Brennan, Acting Company Sergt.-Major E. Bennett and Lce.-Cpl. W. H. M. Osborn. Major Clare was also appointed a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order.¹

On June 7th the Corps Commander (VII Corps) made an informal inspection of the Battalion, and expressed his pleasure with its cleanliness and general appearance. On the 10th June it was notified in Divisional Orders that decorations for gallantry in action at Cherisy had been awarded to the following N.C.O.'s and men:—

Military Medal: Sergts. A. Callingham and J. Cheney; Lce.-Cpls. G. A. Crick, W. H. M. Osborn and E. W. Totem; Ptes. T. Garner, H. A. Barrett, J. J. L. Watson, E. W. Lambert, R. E. Miller, G. Curd, S. F. Dye, R. J. Knowles, H. Mills, E. W. Good, J. Berry and J. Wells.

Bar to Military Medal: Sergt. J. Stacey; Lce.-Cpl. A. Walker.

2nd Bar to Military Medal: Pte. J. J. E. Bagg.

It was also notified later that Sergt. P. Conquest had been awarded the Médaille Militaire, and Lce.-Cpl. A. Walker the French Croix de Guerre.

The Battalion continued training at the camp near Boyelles until the 15th June, when it marched to Chestnut Camp, near Coigneux (nine miles east of Doullens), where there were musketry facilities, and the training became more intensive.

On June 19th the following extract from Divisional Orders was notified to the Battalion; the honours being awarded for the operations at Cherisy:—

"The F.M. Commanding-in-Chief, under authority granted by His Majesty the King, has been pleased to award to the undermentioned officers for gallantry and devotion to duty in action:

Bar to D.S.O. Lieut.-Colonel A. P. B. Irwin.

Bar to M.C. Lieut. F. G. Gaywood (attd. 55th T.M.B.).

M.C. Captain C. R. Holms, Captain G. G. Morse, 2nd Lieut. E. M. Dove."

¹ In March, 1918, this officer, when in command of the 1/5th Battalion East Lancashire Regiment, was awarded a Bar to his D.S.O. for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

On the 27th June, Lieut. F. B. Whitehurst, who had succeeded Captain W. M. Barfoot in the Adjutancy, was promoted to the rank of Captain. The Battalion remained in the camp near Coigneux until the end of the month, and completed its course of special training. The 18th Division was now under orders to leave the VII Corps and to move to the Ypres salient.

After a day of rest on Sunday the 1st July the Battalion marched early on the 2nd to billets at Halloy. On this date the following VII Corps Order was published:—

“The Corps Commander, on the occasion of the 18th Division leaving the Corps, takes the opportunity of congratulating the Division on the manner in which it has acquitted itself during the time that it has been in the Corps. Nothing could have been finer than the way it fought on the 3rd May, and the Division may well be proud of itself. He has never met a Division which so persistently pushed itself forward during the intervals between heavy fighting, and the ground (over a thousand yards) gained in that manner stands to its credit. He regrets parting with such a Division, but knows it only goes to win more glory, and wishes it the best of luck.”

On July 3rd the Battalion marched to Doullens Station and entrained for Hopoutre, arriving there early on the 4th, and going into quarters in Patricia Camp. On July 6th the Battalion moved to Dickebusch Camp, three miles south-west of Ypres, and at 9.30 p.m. marched to Château Ségard and relieved the 19th Battn. King's Regt. in the left reserve sector. The Battalion remained in the reserve trenches in the Château Ségard area until July 16th, finding strong working parties and sustained some casualties: 5 men were killed on the 8th and 3 on the 13th, and 18 men were wounded.

On July 16th the Battalion relieved the 7th Battn. “The Buffs” in the right sector of the Brigade front in Sanctuary Wood, due east of Zillebeke. The enemy's artillery was very active this day, and on the 17th the artillery of both sides was even more active. The British fire continued heavy on the 18th and 19th, and on the latter night the enemy's trenches were raided by parties under 2nd Lieuts. Hall and Lovell. The raiding parties had 6 men killed, 5 wounded and 2 gassed, while Captain C. Francis and 2nd Lieut. A. H. Bacon were also wounded in the trenches. The Battalion remained in the trenches in Sanctuary Wood until the night of the 23rd July. Officers' patrols were sent out constantly during the whole tour of duty, during which 13 men were killed and 2 officers and 27 men were wounded, including the casualties incurred on the night of the 19th.

During the night of the 23rd/24th July, as the 18th Division was being relieved, the Battalion handed over its trenches to the 2nd Battn. Bedfordshire Regt. and moved by platoons to Dickebusch Huts, being heavily shelled during the relief, and having 3 men killed and 10 wounded. At 6.30 p.m. the Battalion left Dickebusch Huts for Devonshire Camp, where it remained carrying on training until the 30th. On the night of July 30th the Battalion moved back to the Château Ségard area, and on the 31st it was employed on lines of communica-

tion and fatigues. In the performance of these duties 2nd Lieut. S. A. E. Royle was wounded, 1 man was killed and 17 wounded.

At 3.50 a.m. on the 31st July, 1917, commenced the Battle of Pilckem Ridge, the first of the Battles of Ypres, 1917. The opening attack had been postponed from the 25th July. In the area in which the 8th Battn. East Surrey was shortly to enter the front line, the attacking British troops fought their way through Sanctuary Wood and captured Stirling Castle, Hooze and the Bellewaarde Ridge.

On the 1st August the 8th Battn. East Surrey assembled in the New Dickebusch area. During the afternoon of the previous day rain began and continued incessantly for four days, rendering impossible any further extension of the offensive until such time as a further period of fine weather might allow the waterlogged soil to recover. Under these conditions the 8th Battn. East Surrey, crowded in a few tents and shelters at New Dickebusch, had not a comfortable time. At midnight on the 3rd the Battalion moved by platoons at 200 yards intervals and relieved the 7th Battn. "The Buffs" in the Support Line of the Sanctuary Wood sub-sector. The country being flooded, it was necessary to keep to the road, and the march was therefore long and tiring. The Battalion reached Valley Cottages, just east of Zillebeke, at 3 a.m., but as no guides had been provided it was very difficult to find the way through nearly obliterated trench systems, and the relief was not completed till 10 a.m. The casualties were limited to two men wounded. Two companies were placed in Jam Trench, the old German front line, their headquarters being housed in derelict Tanks. The companies themselves had no shelter. The remaining two companies and Battalion Headquarters were in Crab Crawl Tunnel, which was in a very bad state with some six inches of water in it.

On the 4th August two German prisoners were taken, and two men were wounded, and on the 5th the enemy put down a heavy fire about Crab Crawl for the benefit of ration carriers, but these had come up before it started. The casualties, however, were 2 killed and 8 wounded. During the afternoon of the 6th, B Company was despatched to the Château Ségard area to be attached for duty to the 7th Battn. "Queen's," which had been ordered to carry out an attack on Inverness Copse, on the Menin road, a mile east of Hooze. The casualties this day were 3 killed and 4 wounded. On August 7th there was the usual heavy shelling all day, with the heavy barrage about 9 p.m. Certain reliefs were effected during the evening and night, the effect of which was to reunite the Battalion in the support line, but in a position somewhat further to the south. The 7th Battn. "Queen's" had meanwhile come up into the front line. Four men were killed and 5 wounded this day. At night the German barrage was so heavy that the rations did not reach the companies till dawn on the day following. About 9.30 p.m. on the 8th August the enemy again put down a heavy barrage, which cost the Battalion 6 men killed and 15 wounded. The attack on Inverness Copse was postponed owing to a heavy downpour of rain. The events of August 9th were similar.

At 4.35 a.m. on the 10th the attack by the 7th Battn. "Queen's" on Inver-

ness Copse started, but was checked by wire at the near edge of the copse. B Company 8th Battn. East Surrey was moved up to support the right of the "Queen's" under a heavy shell fire, and suffered many casualties. Several good N.C.O.'s were killed, and also 2nd Lieut. C. B. Dix, who had been only a month with the Battalion. C Company also suffered heavily in moving forward under shell fire to take up its assigned position during the operation. A Company did good service in finding a number of small parties under lance-corporals which carried food, water, ammunition, etc., for the 7th Battn. "Queen's." One of the lance-corporals was killed on the way up, when an unidentified private took command and completed the task allotted to the party most satisfactorily. The O.C. "Queen's" subsequently expressed his admiration of the work of these parties. Pte. B. P. Simpson, who was attached to the 55th Brigade Headquarters, received the Military Medal for good service on this date.

As the 18th Division was again being withdrawn from the line for its tour of "rest," the Battalion was relieved during the night of the 10th August, and arrived in the camp at New Dickebusch about 8 a.m. on the 11th. Here all ranks washed and rested during the day, entraining at Ouderdom Station in the evening, and arriving before 10 p.m. at West Wippenhoek, where it went into camp.

The casualties between the 4th and 10th August included:—

Killed or died of wounds: 2nd Lieut. C. B. Dix and 38 other ranks.

The Battalion remained in the West Wippenhoek area camp, carrying out company training, until August 15th, early on which day it marched to Abeele Station and entrained for Esquelbecq. Here it detrained at 3.30 p.m. and marched to Zeggescappel, eleven miles north-east of St. Omer, where it went into billets. The remainder of the month was passed at Zeggescappel, the time being devoted to company training. This training, it should be remarked, varied greatly with the progress of the war, new methods of infantry fighting being frequently introduced, earlier systems becoming obsolete.

The whole of September was spent by the Battalion away from the front, but, as will be seen later, was not passed without casualties. The Battalion remained at Zeggescappel until the 23rd September, carrying out systematic training in accordance with the latest tactical developments. During this period also, as in August, large parties of the men were sent to Mardick to spend a day by the seaside.

On the 23rd September the Battalion moved by rail to Schools Camp, just west of Poperinghe, where company training continued to the end of the month. On the 29th September the camp was bombed by German aircraft at 7.45 p.m. Four bombs were dropped, which caused several casualties in the Battalion, 1 man being killed and 2nd Lieut. W. A. Lane (signalling officer) and 14 men being wounded. On the 30th the area was again attacked and a large number of bombs were dropped, but Schools Camp escaped damage.

During the first eight days of October the Battalion remained at Schools Camp, carrying on training.

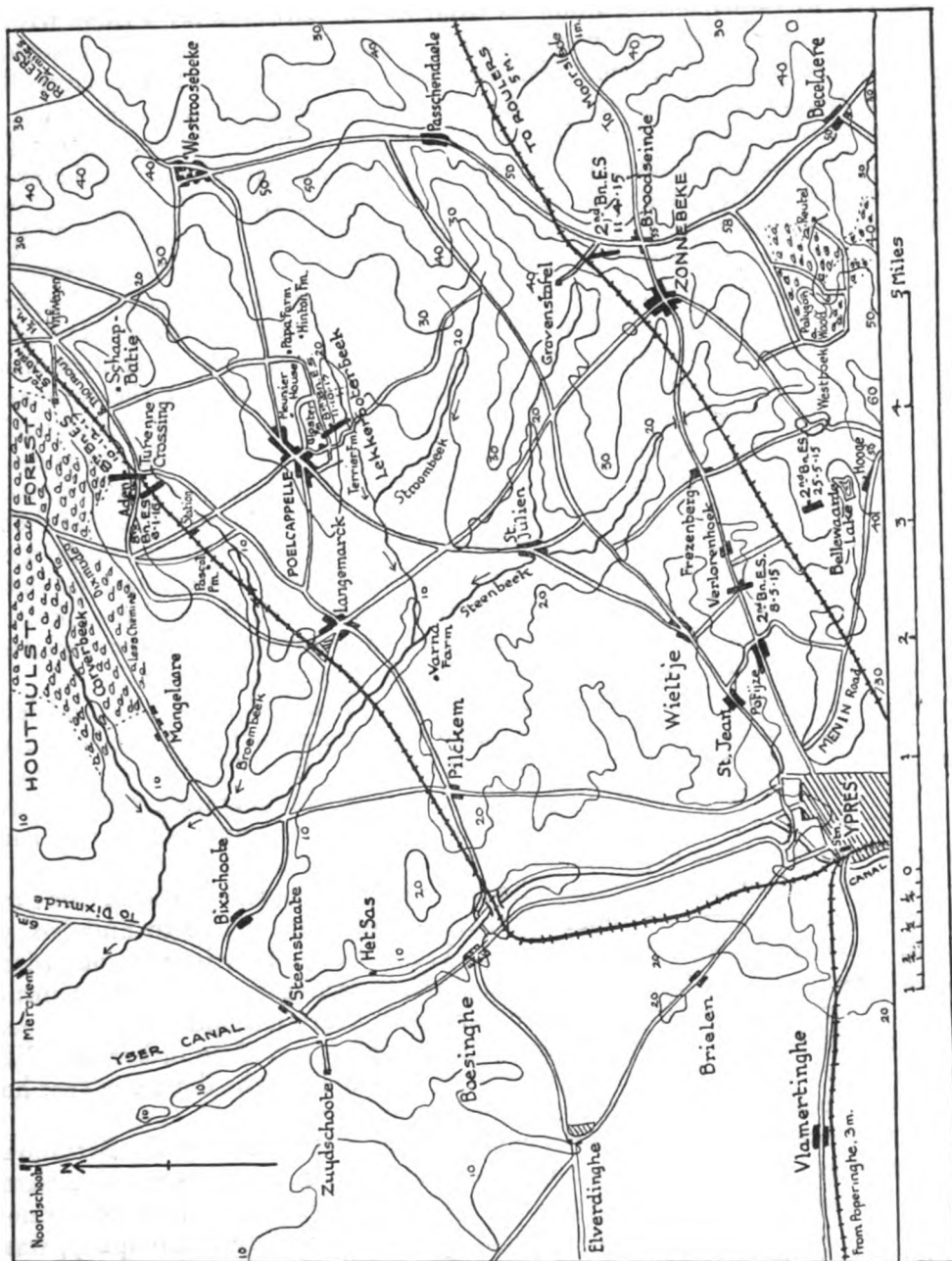
In the Battle of Poelcapelle on the 9th October the Allied front was carried

forward till it extended from the western outskirts of Houthulst Wood past the eastern end of Poelcapelle to the western slopes of Passchendaele Ridge, near the village of that name.

At 3 a.m. on the 10th a warning order was received saying that the 55th Brigade would relieve the 32nd Brigade that night in the front line near Poelcapelle, which lies about six miles north-east of Ypres, and would carry out an attack from that position on the 12th October. Commanding officers met the Brigadier at 8 a.m. and went up with him to the new Brigade Headquarters at Varna Farm, two and a half miles south-west of Poelcapelle. The duty of bringing up the battalions was left to officers second-in-command. Company commanders were conveyed forward by motor-bus to give them an opportunity of looking at the ground. Those of the 8th Battrn. East Surrey met the Commanding Officer at Varna Farm at about 10.30 a.m., but no definite orders were issued nor objectives stated to him until about 1.30 p.m. By this time Lieut.-Colonel Irwin was furnished with maps for each of the company commanders, marked with boundaries and objectives in coloured chalks. He had been informed that his new Battalion Headquarters were in a shell hole, and that not more than two or three people could get to them by daylight on account of sniping, so after a short conference with the company commanders he sent back two of them to meet the Battalion and then set off for his new headquarters with the other two, Major Place and Lieut. Shrapnel, commanding B and C Companies respectively. The new Battalion Headquarters consisted of a large shell hole, against the side of which a rough lean-to shelter had been constructed out of a few sandbags and two sheets of corrugated iron.

The necessary arrangements were made for guides to meet the platoons at the Steenbeek, near Varna Farm, the 32nd Brigade having undertaken to guide them thus far, and the first platoon was due to arrive at Battalion Headquarters at about 9.30 p.m. Actually it did not arrive before 4 a.m. on October 11th, the men being then absolutely exhausted. The 32nd Brigade had only supplied one guide, who had lost his way, so that the whole Battalion had been wandering about in unknown ground all night, and it was solely owing to the skill and perseverance of Major Wightman that it eventually reached its destination. By this time dawn was approaching, and though the relief was carried on with all speed it was never properly completed. Company commanders had only a general idea as to the whereabouts of their platoons, it being impossible to move about near the front line by daylight.

The position now taken up by the Battalion faced north-east and extended from its junction with the left of "The Buffs" near Gloucester Farm, which lies 500 yards south-east of Poelcapelle, to the Lekkerboterbeek, a small stream normally a couple of yards only in width. At this time, however, its banks were so pitted with shell holes full of water that the actual course of the stream was indistinguishable, and the valley in which it ran had become an impassable marsh. This marsh formed the boundary line between the 18th and 9th Divisions and Terrier Farm, on the south side of it, was used as the "liaison" post between the two divisions. Both Gloucester and Terrier Farms had been converted



THE 2ND AND 8TH BATTALIONS IN THE BATTLES OF YPRES, 1915, 1917.

into concreted emplacements, and the former was used as C Company's headquarters.

About three-quarters of a mile in front of the Battalion lay a ridge with a command of some 20 feet above the valley, and on its summit two homesteads, Papa Farm and Hinton Farm. Half-way between the ridge and Poelcapelle, that is, on the left front of the Battalion, stood a knoll, of the same elevation as the ridge, surmounted by a fortified farm known as Meunier House. Except for these two features the ground, which like the marsh was pitted with shell craters containing water, sloped gently upwards for a mile and a half to Spriet, and thence more steeply up to Westroosebeek, on the summit of Passchendaele Ridge.

During the morning of the 11th October, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin received a fresh set of operation orders, which allotted new objectives to the Battalion, but was unable to communicate them to his company commanders during daylight. After dark he called them together and explained the new orders. It then commenced to rain and became intensely dark, with the result that the company commanders had great difficulty in finding their platoons and were then unable to point out to them on the map the new objectives, as they could not show a light. In these circumstances officers and section commanders had little chance of ascertaining what their objectives were, and no opportunity of looking at them in daylight. Lieut.-Colonel Irwin considered the situation so serious that he sent a formal protest to the Brigade Commander before instructing Captain K. Bell-Irving to lay out the forming-up tape from Gloucester Farm to Terrier Farm. This was no easy task and took several hours to carry out, but it was completed at last, in spite of the tape being broken several times by shell fire.

The dispositions for attack were as follows: B and C were right and left assaulting companies, with the road running south-east from Meunier House as their objective. A and D Companies were to "leap-frog" B and C and take the Papa Farm-Hinton Farm Ridge. As, however, the operation orders were again altered at the last moment, few if any of the officers and other ranks had a clear idea of what was expected of them.

About midnight, Major Place, who had been visiting the platoons, came to Battalion Headquarters and reported that he had been unable to find No. 5 platoon, under 2nd Lieut. N. L. Riddett. Lieut.-Colonel Irwin went out with him, but could find no trace of them, nor was anything known of them until they were seen next morning getting up and going forward under our barrage. 2nd Lieut. Riddett set a very gallant example. He had had no orders and did not even know at what time the attack was to be made, but he did know that he could not do wrong if he went forward with the barrage.

Shortly after midnight the enemy shelled the sector held by the Battalion with "mustard gas." Respirators were put on, and there were no ill effects except a few blisters. At about 4 a.m. on October 12th, while moving his company up into position, 2nd Lieut. R. S. Franks, commanding D Company, was killed by a shell. He was a very promising officer, full of energy and high spirits, and much liked. His death was a great loss to the Battalion. Shortly afterwards 2nd Lieut. C. A. Heath, of D Company, was wounded, and the command of the

company fell on 2nd Lieut. C. Whyntie, who was severely wounded at the moment of advance, so that the company went into action without any officers.

Zero hour was at 5.35 a.m., but the barrage opened in an irregular way, commencing at zero minus four minutes. It was not sufficiently heavy, and, although it only moved at the rate of fifty yards in four minutes, the state of the ground was such that the men with ordinary equipment could not keep up with it, while those carrying the Lewis guns and their ammunition bags could not advance at all, as they sank too deep in the mud. Moreover, the barrage opened too far in front of our line, leaving untouched several enemy machine-gun posts between it and our front line. Heavy machine-gun and rifle fire was opened by the enemy all along our front and continued throughout the action. Shortly after zero, Lieut. G. A. G. Wix and 2nd Lieuts. H. Fearn and N. L. Riddett were killed by machine-gun fire, and Captain C. R. Holms, commanding A Company, was severely wounded. Captain G. A. Birnie (R.A.M.C.) and 2nd Lieut. H. S. Todd, of C Company, were also wounded.

The enemy barrage, which came down at zero plus four minutes, was not heavy, but consisted of shells of large calibre. At about 8.30 a.m., Major C. G. Place, commanding B Company, returned wounded to Battalion Headquarters and reported that some of our men had advanced 500 yards or more, but that they had passed several machine-gun posts which were still holding out. In particular a post with two machine guns about 100 yards east of Gloucester Farm caused a large number of casualties. All the men who passed these machine-gun posts were eventually killed or taken prisoners.

The situation was very obscure for some time, as all the officers except three and a large number of the N.C.O.'s had become casualties, and also from the fact that no runners could get back over that open ground owing to rifle and machine-gun fire. The mud was so bad that rapid movement from shell hole to shell hole was impossible, and most of the casualties among officers and N.C.O.'s were incurred in attempting to lead advances by short rushes after the barrage had been lost. The rifles and the men's hands were plastered with mud, so that each time that a fresh clip was inserted some mud went into the magazine with it, and the breach had to be cleaned after every few rounds. By degrees it became evident that, in spite of all its sacrifices, the Battalion had made but little way, and under the existing conditions of weather and ground could make no further advance. The Commanding Officer, therefore, sent a message to Brigade Headquarters, asking permission to reorganize his line in the evening 100 yards in front of the forming-up tape. This he proposed in order to have some definite mark as a guide, for there were no natural features suitable to the purpose. At about 2 p.m. the Brigade Major, Captain C. Runge, arrived at Battalion Headquarters and told Lieut.-Colonel Irwin that the Battalion might perhaps be relieved at night, but that this was still uncertain. No relief, in fact, took place, and in the evening Lieut.-Colonel Irwin reorganized his posts as he had proposed, and got in touch with "The Buffs" on his left and with a battalion of the 9th Division on his right. The 6th Bttn. Royal Berkshire Regt. also had formed up at a short distance in rear and was digging itself in there.

The unsatisfactory position of Battalion Headquarters has been mentioned, and search was made for a better place, but none could be found. During the night the headquarters was persistently shelled, and at 2.30 a.m. on October 13th received a direct hit on one end, which killed 5 and wounded 2 of the personnel. Finding at 4 a.m. that no orders for relief had arrived, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin communicated with Brigade Headquarters, and at 8 a.m. received orders (timed 8.50 p.m. the previous night) authorizing him to withdraw all men not required for his new line of posts to Gournier Farm. As it was now broad daylight, it was impossible to make any movement from the front line. Soon afterwards orders were received that the Battalion would be relieved at night by the 7th Battn. "Queen's," and at 5.30 p.m. the relief was duly commenced, but took very long to complete. It was not, in fact, till 5.30 a.m. on October 14th that the last platoon of the Battalion had reached Canal Bank Baths, near Boesinghe, three and a half miles north of Ypres, where all bathed, changed their underclothing and had a hot breakfast.

At 1.45 p.m. lorries conveyed the Battalion back to its quarters at Dirty Bucket Camp, near Vlamertinghe, whence it had gone up to the front line on the 10th.

During the intervening four days the following casualties had been sustained:—

	<i>Officers.</i>	<i>Other Ranks.</i>
<i>Killed :</i>	4	52
<i>Wounded :</i>	6	137
<i>Missing :</i>	—	42
	—	—
Total	10	231

The narrative above indicates rather than describes the admirable gallantry and devotion shown by all ranks of the Battalion in these very arduous operations. Many instances of special gallantry were brought to notice, but a far greater number necessarily passed unrecorded. In his narrative, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin drew special attention to the two following officers, the words used being his own: "The gallantry displayed by Major C. G. M. Place and Captain G. A. Birnie, R.A.M.C., both before and during the action, was of a very high order, and was acknowledged by the award to them of the D.S.O. and M.C. respectively. Captain Birnie was wounded early in the action, and continued for eight hours to search for and dress the wounded. He searched the whole ground in front of our position, up to and even among the enemy posts, in spite of shelling and machine-gun fire, and did not give up his task until relieved and ordered to go down by Captain Lister, R.A.M.C."

The Battalion remained at Dirty Bucket Camp, carrying out the usual re-fitting, resting and training, until the 24th October. During this period, conditions favourable to air operations existing, special instructions were issued. On the evening of Sunday, October 21st, bombs were dropped near the camp by hostile planes, one falling close to the officers' tents. Captain K. Bell-Irving and

one man were mortally wounded, dying next day, and Captain McRory (the Chaplain), 2nd Lieut. W. Cook and three men were wounded. Captain Bell-Irving, who was an officer of the 2nd Battalion, had served throughout the War and had previously been wounded.

On the 24th October the Battalion moved back to Poperinghe and took over billets in the town. On the 26th it again moved into Parroy Camp outside the town, where it remained in Brigade Reserve till the end of the month, being employed daily on road construction.

On the 1st November the Battalion did its usual day's work, moving in the afternoon by motor transport to Petworth Camp. After one day's rest here a further move was made on the 3rd, the Battalion entraining at Proven and detraining at Elverdinghe, four miles north-west of Ypres, whence it marched to Emile Camp, near Boesinghe, and went into huts. The huts were clean, but the camp was a sea of mud. Here the remainder of the month was spent. On November 6th, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin went home on a month's leave, his health having suffered from long and arduous field service, during which he had been for sixteen months in command and had been wounded. The command during his absence devolved on Major Wightman. On the same day the following rewards granted to N.C.O.'s and men for Poelcapelle operations were published in Battalion Orders:—

3rd Bar to Military Medal: Lce.-Cpl. J. J. E. Bagg.¹

Bar to Military Medal: Cpl. W. H. M. Osborn.

Military Medal: Lce.-Sergts. G. Brown and E. Greene; Ptes. L. M. Baldwin, P. Cage, F. C. C. Furze, H. Johnson, S. Lynn, E. D. Smith, G. Smith, H. T. Stevens, W. Tween and E. Wood.

Certificates of recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty signed by the Divisional Commander were also awarded to the following: Company Sergt.-Major G. H. Stacey; Sergt. J. Turk; Ptes. F. Benstead, P. G. Johnson and F. Poolton.

During its stay at Emile Camp large working parties for the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers were found daily, the men remaining in camp being employed in draining and improving local conditions. The instruction of specialists proceeded as usual, this invariably being a marked feature of camp life. On the 14th November, 2nd Lieut. C. J. Whyntie, who had been wounded on the 12th October, rejoined for duty.

On the 16th decorations, conferred on officers of the Battalion by Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, were notified in Orders:—

Distinguished Service Order: Major C. G. M. Place and Captain W. H. Lister (R.A.M.C.).

Bar to Military Cross: Captain C. R. Holms.

Military Cross: Captain G. A. Birnie (R.A.M.C.); 2nd Lieuts. F. A. Dawson, A. E. Dowley (in charge of Divisional Bomb Store).

¹ The 3rd Bar to the M.M. awarded to this exceptionally gallant young soldier was subsequently cancelled, and he was in place of it awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal by Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig "for gallantry and devotion to duty in action."

At a later date Company Sergt.-Major G. H. Stacey, who commanded his company in action at Poelcapelle after all the officers had become casualties, was also awarded the Military Cross; while Company Sergt.-Major C. Estall received the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

On November 17th, 2nd Lieut. N. Fleming was wounded while on fatigue, but remained at duty. Battalion Orders on November 30th published an interesting return of war material salvaged by the Battalion during the month. This included 75 rifles, 1 Lewis gun, 111 charged shells, 456 shell cases and a great number of miscellaneous articles.

During the period which the Battalion spent away from the front line at Poperinghe and Boesinghe the Second Battle of Passchendaele had been fought, lasting from the 26th October to the 10th November. This was the last of the Battles of Ypres, 1917, and with it closed for the time being the British offensive in Flanders.

The Battalion remained at Emile Camp during the first week of December, continually finding large working parties for the Royal Engineers and sustaining no casualties. On the night of December 7th the Battalion relieved the 12th Battn. Middlesex Regt. in Brigade Reserve, taking over the Canal Dugouts near Boesinghe. The relief was completed by 1.30 a.m. on the 8th, on which day Lieut.-Colonel Irwin rejoined from leave and resumed command.

On the night of December 10th the Battalion went into the trenches about Turenne Crossing, a short distance from the south-eastern corner of Houthulst Forest, the relief being completed without casualty by 11.30 p.m. All the posts were in shell holes, which were found to be comparatively dry and were partially camouflaged. In order to strengthen the position a large amount of wiring was done on the night of December 11th, particularly at Pascal Farm, the post of the reserve company; on the main defence lines on the Cinq Chemin-Turenne Crossing road, at the strong point at Aden House, and in front of the outposts. The remainder of the trench tour was not specially eventful. Aircraft activity was intermittent, and only in the afternoon of the 14th was there much artillery fire. At six o'clock that evening the relief of the Battalion began, and was completed without incident by 9.30 p.m. Casualties during the tour had been very light, 1 man being killed, and Lieut. F. W. R. Anderson and 2 men wounded; 8 men had been sent down sick, of whom 6 were suffering from trench feet.

The 18th Division was now under orders to proceed to a "rest" area, and on December 15th an advance party, under 2nd Lieut. A. H. Dowley, proceeded to the new area to take over billets. In accordance with its orders, the Battalion entrained at Boesinghe at 5.30 a.m. on the 16th and detrained at Watten at 3 p.m., whence it marched to billets at Mentque, eight miles west of St. Omer.

From the 17th to the 24th company training continued busily, varied by musketry on the Fifth Army rifle range at Eperlecques on available days. Christmas Day was observed as a holiday, and an excellent dinner provided for all ranks.

The Battalion remained at Mentque until the 28th December, when it moved to the Proosdy area. Entraining at Audruicq and detraining at Proven

at 3 p.m., the Battalion reached Privett Camp by 4 p.m., where it remained until, on the last day of the year, it moved to Boesinghe, and soon after midday took up its quarters in H Camp.

The Honours *Gazette* of the 1st January, 1918, notified that Temporary Lieut.-Colonel A. P. B. Irwin had received a Brevet-Majority, and the award of the Military Cross to Lieut. N. A. Pease and Company Sergt.-Major C. Estall, who had distinguished themselves in action during 1917.

On the 2nd January the Battalion became Brigade Support, being posted at Abri Wood, and on the 6th moved forward into the front line, taking over the left sub-sector of the Divisional front, with Battalion Headquarters at Pascal Farm. On the 8th the enemy's position at Turenne Crossing was raided by a party under the command of 2nd Lieut. B. G. Scrase which consisted of fifteen selected N.C.O.'s and men of D Company. Another party of twenty-five other ranks, under 2nd Lieut. A. W. Braid, acted in support. Both parties moved off at 4.40 a.m. and, having advanced a considerable distance along the Ypres-Thourout railway embankment, reached the point from which the attack was made, supported by a detachment of Stokes mortars. When some 30 yards from the enemy post at the crossing, 2nd Lieut. Scrase found masses of wire still uncut and was unable to get through. As the enemy were pouring a withering machine-gun fire on his party he decided to abandon the attempt and skilfully withdrew his men.

The enemy official report of this raid is interesting.

German Wireless Report. Army Group Crown Prince Rupprecht "Under cover of heavy fire, British reconnaissance detachments advanced towards the South border of Houthulst Forest. Some companies made an attack on the Boesinghe-Staden railway. The enemy was unable to reach our lines at any point and sustained heavy casualties under our fire."

In spite of the apparent failure of the raid, the report was well received at Headquarters, and the following awards were made:—

Military Cross : 2nd Lieut. B. G. Scrase.

Military Medal : Sergt. J. J. Giles; Sergt. F. Kitch; Cpl. F. W. Greenland; Lce.-Cpl. A. V. Armour.

At about 7 a.m. a heavy fall of snow made conditions exceedingly unpleasant. Taking advantage of this, the enemy attacked the Battalion's posts as dusk came on. Clad in white smocks, about 200 Germans advanced against the left of the Battalion at about 4.45 p.m., but, chiefly owing to the well-directed rifle and Lewis-gun fire of the garrisons, they failed to reach our posts. For some considerable time the hostile artillery barrage was very heavy, although in response to the S.O.S. signal the British artillery replied with their usual vigour. By 6 p.m. the situation was again normal. The casualties during the day were surprisingly light, viz. 4 other ranks killed, 2 "missing, believed killed," and 10 wounded.

After a quiet day on the 9th the enemy artillery became very active on the following day, during which the Battalion, relieved by the 6th Battn. Northampton Regt., returned to its old quarters in H Camp, after what was declared

70 THE 18TH DIVISION IN THE LINE NEAR THE RIVER OISE

to have been "the most trying tour that the Battalion had experienced, on account of the severe weather." H Camp was the Battalion's home for the next seven days.

At noon on the 18th January the Battalion again moved forward to Abri Wood, where for three days it continued the improvement of the camp and the supply of R.E. "duties," going into the line in relief of the 7th Battn. "Queen's" on the evening of the 21st. For several days considerable efforts were made to repair the ravages of the weather on the sector. Much new wire was put up, duck-board tracks laid and camouflaged, while patrols were frequently sent out along the roads leading to Turenne Crossing.

On the night of the 24th the Battalion bid farewell to the sector and, afterwards turned out, its final farewell to the Ypres salient. Moving back to H Camp, where a stay of a week was made, it entrained on 31st January for the Herzele area, the transport proceeding thither by march route.

Herzele remained the Battalion's training ground for some days, during which time a draft of 6 officers and 146 other ranks, under the command of Captain J. A. Halford, reported from the 7th Battalion, which unit, having gallantly upheld the traditions of the Regiment during two and a half years of active service, had just been disbanded as the result of the new organization of brigades on a three-battalion basis.

At 10 a.m. on the 8th February the Battalion entrained at Herzele and, after a most interesting journey southwards through Arras, Miraumont and Albert, arrived at Noyon in the early hours of the following morning. The Division, now part of the Fifth Army, was being put into the line opposite La Fère (some fifteen miles south of St. Quentin), which had quite recently been taken over from the French. Some divisions had already arrived in the area; and everyone looked forward to a more pleasant existence in country as yet hardly touched by war in comparison with the battered and waterlogged desolation of the northern portion of the Ypres salient.

After a halt of two days at Pontoise, the Battalion moved forward to two villages, Autreville and Pierremande, on the south bank of the River Oise, near the western edge of the Forêt de Coucy (see map opposite page 126). Accommodation was provided for A and C Companies in the former village, and at first also for Battalion Headquarters, but two days later these moved to Pierremande to join the other companies. Until the 15th the Battalion was allowed to continue the programme of training already begun at Herzele, and the recently joined drafts rapidly assimilated themselves into the Battalion.

A programme of work was then received from the Brigade, under which working parties were provided for digging and wiring extensive new fortifications in the Caillette and Barisis Hill sectors and the Bernagousse strong-point, into which A Company eventually moved.

On the 24th, however, the Battalion (less A and C Companies, who moved to Sinceny) relieved the 2/4th Battn. London Regt. in the Buttes de Rouy, only to be itself relieved on the following day by another unit of the 58th Division. On the completion of this second relief the Battalion moved by lorries via Chauny

PREPARATIONS FOR THE EXPECTED GERMAN OFFENSIVE 71

to Vieville Camp, where it remained for two days making hurdles from the brushwood of the coppice in which the camp was situated. Parties were also provided for wiring Ronquenet Farm, a strong point in the "Battle Zone" of the new Divisional front. A final move was made on the 27th February to La Haute Tombelle Camp, near Jussy, where the Battalion remained until the morning of the memorable 21st March.

The frequent moves just recorded were necessitated by the arrival in this area of new divisions. Everything at the time was in a state of flux. The 14th and 58th Divisions were each holding extensive fronts, and between them was now to be squeezed the 18th Division. An enemy attack on an enormous scale was known to be impending, and the rushing of battalions hither and thither was well understood by all ranks to be due to the necessity for providing every safeguard against a sudden surprise. The expected great German offensive was upon every tongue, and the Commanding Officer had recently issued the following special Order:—

"It is imperative that all platoon commanders should explain to their men the vital issues which depend upon the result of the expected German offensive. The enemy is preparing to make one more colossal effort to break through the Allied defences. . . .

"The Battalion has been placed in support to a critical part of the line. . . . If the enemy should attack here, it should be possible to inflict enormous losses on him by steady rifle fire, for, owing to the nature of the country, the conditions are all in favour of the defence. . . . The enemy is certain to make great use of gas shell, and the two things that every man must bear in mind are:—

"1. Keep your respirator at the alert, and in good order.

"2. Shoot steadily and low, whenever you get a target.

". . . The Boche has been shooting at you for the last eighteen months while you went over the open at him. Now is your chance to kill him in the open."

The *morale* of the Battalion was never better. A fine recovery had been made from the effects of the bitter weather and the depressing conditions of Belgium. Inter-company games and matches with neighbouring units had done much to build up anew a magnificent esprit de corps. All ranks were on their mettle, and it was not only on the other side of No Man's Land that men looked forward to and drank to "Der Tag."

For the remaining three weeks after the arrival at La Haute Tombelle the Battalion was mainly occupied in work in the "Battle Zone," but a certain amount of time was also given to general training and musketry practice on a range built near the camp. There was a daily practice "Stand to" at dawn; and men were thoroughly drilled in the use of their gas helmets.

During the month Pte. G. Minart was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry when carrying messages, particularly at Poelcapelle. He had twice previously been recommended for this decoration for similar services at Montauban and Cherisy.

CHAPTER VII

APRIL, 1917, TO MARCH, 1918 : THE 9TH BATTALION IN THE LINE OPPOSITE LENS ; IN THE BATTLE OF MESSINES, 1917 ; IN THE BATTLES OF YPRES, 1917 ; RETURNS TO THE SOMME AREA ; FIVE MONTHS IN THE LINE NEAR HARGICOURT ; THE BATTALION MOVES TO THE PERONNE AREA.

AT the end of March, 1917, the 9th Battn. East Surrey was in the front-line trenches facing Liévin, near Lens (*vide* Chapter XX of Vol. II). On the 1st April the Battalion was relieved and went into Divisional Reserve at Bully Grenay until the 7th, when it returned to the same trenches in the right sub-section Calonne.

The Battles of Arras, 1917, commenced on the 9th April, and in the sub-section occupied by the Battalion there was considerable artillery activity on both sides.

On the 12th and 13th it was observed that, while our fire was concentrated on the enemy's front lines, the German fire was chiefly directed at our back area, and numerous fires and explosions were noticed behind the enemy's lines. The situation gradually disclosed the fact that the German retirement consequent on the capture of the Vimy Ridge had begun or was about to begin, and on the 13th each company sent forward strong patrols which crossed No Man's Land unmolested and reached the enemy's front line safely. The remainder of each company soon followed. Patrols were then again pushed forward, and by 10 p.m. B Company on the right occupied the northern half of Cité de Rollencourt and a line running north-east to the outskirts of Liévin. C Company in the centre occupied a line running north-east about 300 yards from Liévin ; and A Company on the left occupied Cité de la Plaine and a line running north-east for 500 yards from the southern end of that village. B Company captured a " minnenwerfer " gun and a store of ammunition, and A Company an aerial dart gun. There were many signs of a hurried retreat.

On the 14th April the Battalion was relieved at noon by the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. and moved into Brigade Support in the old German support line. Lieut.-Colonel de la Fontaine received a special complimentary letter from the Brigade on the good work of the Battalion while following up the German retirement.

On April 15th the Battalion closed up towards its new front and did much to improve the German trenches, which were in a very wet and battered condition. The 16th was similarly employed, and in the evening the Battalion relieved the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. in the front line about 1000 yards north-west of Lens. The relief was not complete till 3 a.m. on the 17th April.

The Battalion remained in the new front line, holding its ground steadily and successfully against considerable hostile activity, until the evening of the

19th April, when the 24th Division was relieved by the 47th Division. Considering the amount of artillery and rifle fire sustained the casualties were by no means heavy. On relief by a battalion of the 47th Division, the 9th Battn. East Surrey moved back by companies to Petit Sains, and parading in column of route at 2.30 p.m. on the 20th April marched to Lozinghem, where it arrived at 7 p.m. and went into billets. The number of German trophies carried by the men afforded great pleasure to the inhabitants of the villages through which the Battalion marched.

On April 21st the Battalion moved to Auchy-au-Bois, where it arrived at 12.30 p.m. and went into billets, remaining there until the 25th, when it marched to Coyecque (eleven miles south of St. Omer), where it was stationed for the remainder of the month, undergoing training.

The casualties during the month were:—*Killed*: 2nd Lieut. H. W. Kiver and 6 other ranks. *Wounded*: 2nd Lieuts. C. W. Trenchard and L. H. Webb and 28 other ranks.

The Battalion remained at Coyecque until the 9th May, carrying out advanced training. On the 9th it marched to Rely, and on the 10th to Les Ciseaux. On May 11th it paraded for inspection by Major-General Capper, Commanding 24th Division, who complimented it on its turnout and smartness under arms. The 24th Division had now been transferred from the I Corps to the II Corps. On the 12th the Battalion paraded at 5.30 a.m. and marched in "fighting order" to some cottages near Watoo, where it was billeted. The march was twenty-two miles, and only four men fell out. On the 13th the march was continued to A Camp, two miles south-east of Poperinghe. On May 14th the Battalion paraded at 9 a.m., went by train to the asylum at Ypres, and thence marched to the familiar left sub-sector of Hooze, where it relieved a battalion of the 23rd Division.

The first three days in the trenches were unusually quiet, but on the 18th and 19th May there was a marked increase of shelling, causing several casualties. On May 20th the Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt. and went into Brigade Support 1000 yards west of Hooze. Two companies were billeted at Ypres. On May 23rd the Battalion was ordered to "stand by," owing to an intense bombardment of the front line of a neighbouring battalion, but nothing further happened. The Battalion remained in Brigade Support until the 29th May, when it was relieved by a battalion of the 30th Division and withdrew by train and road into camp three miles from Poperinghe. Here the usual drill and musketry began on May 30th, but at 6 p.m. the Battalion was suddenly ordered to move some three miles to Busse-Boom, where it encamped. On the morning of the 31st, working parties of 10 officers and 500 men were found for the X Corps R.E., and in the afternoon camp was again moved to a more convenient spot nearer Busse-Boom. The casualties during the month were 3 other ranks killed and 13 wounded.

During the first four days of June the Battalion remained in its camp near Busse-Boom, providing daily working parties of 7 officers and 400 men, and night parties of 3 officers and 150 men. On June 5th, Lieut.-Colonel de la Fontaine

74 9TH BATTN. IN RESERVE AT BATTLE OF MESSINES, 1917

inspected the companies in battle order, and on the 6th the Battalion marched to Mic Mac Camp, near Ouderdom, arriving at 11.30 p.m.

The Battle of Messines, 1917, commenced on the 7th June, and early that day the Messines-Wytschaete ridge was carried by the British troops. At 1.30 p.m. the Battalion marched to Château Ségard (one mile north-west of Voormezele), where the 72nd Brigade was placed in reserve to the X Corps. The old château had been utterly destroyed and officers and men lived in trenches and dugouts. On June 8th, 9th and 10th the Battalion remained at Château Ségard, carrying out physical drill, musketry and bombing practice. In the evening of the latter day the Battalion moved from Château Ségard into Brigade Support at Mount Sorrel and Rudkin House, on the western end of Observatory Ridge and about three-quarters of a mile east of Zillebeke. On the way up heavy shelling was encountered, but casualties were light.

The Battalion remained in Brigade Support until June 13th, when it relieved the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt. in the right sub-sector of the front line on the western edge of Shrewsbury Forest. Shelling was still very heavy, but the relief was carried out without casualties, although the losses earlier in the day had been somewhat heavy. Hostile shelling was somewhat less violent on the 14th. At 7.30 p.m. our artillery put down a barrage on the enemy's front line opposite the 9th Battn. East Surrey to divert attention from an attack by the 17th Brigade on the right. To guard the left flank of this attack the Battalion sent forward a small fighting patrol under 2nd Lieut. Homewood into No Man's Land, where there was some ground not commanded by our trenches. On the 15th June there was somewhat less artillery fire, but five hostile aeroplanes flying very low, fired machine guns into the trenches. The Battalion's Lewis guns eventually drove them off.

On the 16th fire again became very intense on the whole system of trenches held by the Battalion and was continued into the night. Our guns kept up a constant fire in reply. On June 17th the Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt. and moved back into Brigade Reserve at Dickebusch, arriving there early in the morning of the 18th. The Battalion remained at Dickebusch until the evening of June 19th, when it again moved to Mic Mac Camp, where it remained, resting and doing easy training, until the evening of June 23rd. On the 21st, Lieut.-Colonel de la Fontaine assumed temporary command of the 72nd Brigade, and Major T. H. S. Swanton that of the Battalion.

At 7.30 p.m. on June 23rd the Battalion marched from Mic Mac Camp through Dickebusch to the trenches about one mile south-east of Verbrandenmolen. The Battalion's left rested on the Ypres-Menin railway, and the front ran near and parallel to the southern boundary of Battle Wood as far as the Ypres-Comines canal. On June 24th and 25th the whole area was heavily shelled by the enemy and the Battalion sustained fourteen casualties.

On the 26th June the Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt. and moved back into Brigade Support, where it remained until June 29th, when on relief it marched back by companies to Mic Mac Camp, arriving there

at 2.30 p.m. On June 30th the Battalion marched through Ouderdom to Reninghelst, where it entrained on a British military railway for conveyance to the rest area round Coulomby, with Headquarters at Fromental, twelve miles west of St. Omer. The Battalion arrived at 11 p.m., and by 1.30 a.m. on July 1st had settled down in its allotted quarters. The casualties during June were:—*Killed*: 51 other ranks. *Wounded*: Captain G. S. Tetley, 2nd Lieuts. G. E. Manning, C. R. Cowper and P. M. Yonge and 104 other ranks.

The Battalion lay in its billets at and round Fromental during the first half of July, receiving a few reinforcements and enjoying a welcome rest after the heavy losses of June. On the return from leave of Brigadier-General Sweny on July 3rd, Lieut.-Colonel de la Fontaine resumed the command of the Battalion, but on the 6th he proceeded to his home near Tours, and Major Swanton resumed the command. On the 11th very successful Battalion Sports were held and were attended by a large number of spectators.

From July 16th to 21st the Battalion was on the march, halting at the following places: 16th, Lumbres; 17th, Renescure; 18th, Caestre; 19th, Eecke; 20th, cross-roads west of Reninghelst; 21st, Mic Mac Camp, near Ouderdom. At 7 p.m. the same evening C and D Companies took over the line held by the support and reserve companies of the 8th Battn. Yorkshire Regt. about the village of Zwarteleen. On the 22nd July, Battalion Headquarters and A and B Companies marched up to these trenches via Hill 60; while C and D went forward to the front-line trench known as Image Crescent, which lay about a furlong to the north of Klein Zillebeke. The enemy's artillery was very active during the three days which the Battalion spent in these trenches, and three officers were killed (Captain G. S. Pirie, R.A.M.C., Lieut. J. A. Picton, M.C., and 2nd Lieut. P. Y. Bogue), and two wounded (2nd Lieuts. H. L. B. Ellis and W. D. Sadler). The casualties in other ranks were 3 killed and 19 wounded. In the death of Captain Pirie the Battalion sustained a severe loss. He had been attached to it almost continuously as Medical Officer since its early days and had done gallant service with it in the Battles of the Somme, 1916.

On the night of the 24th July the Battalion was relieved by the 8th Battn. "Queen's" and went back into Brigade support. Next day it moved back into a camp near Dickebusch, where it remained till the end of the month.

The following honours were awarded during July:—

Military Cross: Lieut. J. A. Picton and 2nd Lieut. G. Manning.

Distinguished Conduct Medal: Cpl. J. W. Perry.

Military Medal: Ptes. H. Rolls and R. V. Ellis.

At 3.50 a.m. on the 31st July the Fifth Army attacked on a seven-mile front extending northwards from the Zillebeke-Zandvoorde road, thus commencing the Battle of Pilckem Ridge. As a result of this attack the British troops had captured by nightfall the German first system of defence between the Ypres-Menin and Zillebeke-Zandvoorde roads.

At 8 p.m. on the 1st August, Headquarters of the 9th Battn. East Surrey, with C and D Companies, moved to old French Trench, two miles south-west

of Ypres, as a preparatory step towards relieving in the new front line two other battalions of the 72nd Brigade, which had been heavily engaged on the previous day. This relief was carried out during the evening of the 2nd August, when the Battalion moved up through Verbranden-Molen and relieved the 8th Battn. "Queen's" and 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt. in the captured German trenches about half a mile north-east of Klein Zillebeke. The weather conditions were very bad, as heavy rain had fallen for three days; communication trenches were over waist-deep in water, so all movements had to be made overland. In addition, C Company was heavily shelled and suffered twenty casualties on the way up; but the men were not to be discouraged, and went cheerfully forward.

The Battalion remained in the front line from August 3rd to 7th, and during these five days the companies were only relieved by changes among themselves. On the night of the 3rd, D Company took over the entire double front, C joining B in reserve; and on the following night A Company moved up to the front, and B to the support line, C and D forming the reserve. On the night of the 6th the losses of A Company had been so heavy from shell fire that it was reinforced from the other three companies, and Captain Warre-Dymond, who rendered conspicuous service during this period, temporarily relieved Captain W. M. Taylor in the command. The enemy's artillery fire was particularly heavy daily at dawn and dusk, and rain continued to fall throughout the tour of duty, yet the conduct of the whole Battalion continued to be truly admirable: despite the really terrible conditions, every man stuck to his job bravely and cheerfully.

Early on the morning of the 5th August a German attack took place which resulted in the death of Lieut.-Colonel de la Fontaine. About 6 a.m. four small advanced posts near Groenenburg Farm, under 2nd Lieut. S. W. Taylor, repelled in a thick mist an attack on their left flank by thirty-five to fifty Germans. About 8 a.m. another attack from the front was driven off with loss to the enemy, but a third attack, this time on their left right flank, compelled the garrisons of the post to fall back to the supporting posts. Later in the morning the Commanding Officer, accompanied by 2nd Lieut. L. H. Webb (4th Battn. attd.), came up to make a personal reconnaissance. While observing over the parapet, Lieut.-Colonel de la Fontaine was shot through the head by a German sniper, dying soon afterwards. 2nd Lieut. Webb got back with valuable information, and the same night led forward under heavy shell fire a party which re-established the front line. For this service he was awarded the Military Cross.

In recording the death of its Commanding Officer, the Battalion Diary writes Colonel de la Fontaine's best epitaph in words of touching simplicity and truth: "A personal friend of, and beloved by, every man in the Battalion, he died a soldier, carrying out his duty and anxious for the safety of his men." Lieut.-Colonel de la Fontaine was a soldier of rare merit. An accomplished and gallant man, his one idea was to do his duty. In spite of a very retiring and modest disposition his value was well known, and the loss to the East Surrey Regt. and to the Army caused by his death was fully recognized by his military superiors.

In the evening Major T. H. S. Swanton rejoined from the 12th Battn. Royal Fusiliers and assumed command of the Battalion, but unfortunately was wounded

in the face very early on the morning of the 7th August, when Captain C. A. Clark took over the command. In the afternoon of this day the body of Lieut.-Colonel de la Fontaine was buried at Reninghelst, and at 11 p.m. that night the Battalion was relieved by the 3rd Battn. Rifle Brigade and moved back into Divisional Reserve at Mic Mac Camp, arriving there at 4 a.m. on the 8th.

The casualties among officers during the first seven days of August were as follows:—*Killed or mortally wounded* : Lieut.-Colonel H. V. M. de la Fontaine, D.S.O.; 2nd Lieuts. W. D. Sadler and A. G. Millard. *Wounded* : Major T. H. S. Swanton; 2nd Lieuts. J. K. P. Patterson, R. C. Sherriff, P. High and A. W. Harvey (the two latter slightly). The casualties among other ranks were:—*Killed*, 35; *wounded*, 108.

On the arrival of the Battalion at Mic Mac Camp, Brevet Lieut.-Colonel L. J. Le Fleming, East Surrey Regt., joined and took over command from Captain C. A. Clark. Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming, who had served with the 2nd Battalion during the South African War, had already been twice wounded in the war in France.

The Battalion remained at Mic Mac Camp until August 11th, moving by companies in the evening of that day, by a cross-country track, to a camp north of Dickebusch church, where it remained in reserve until the 14th August. During the mornings training of various sorts was carried out, and the afternoons were given to rest and recreation. Thus judiciously treated the men quickly recovered from the strain of their recent severe service and were soon ready, as they were ever willing, to return to the front line. During their rest the following letter was received from the Brigadier-General Commanding the 72nd Brigade:—

“OFFICER COMMANDING 9TH EAST SURREY,

I wish to place on record the great loss which the Brigade has suffered in the death of Lieut.-Colonel H. V. M. de la Fontaine, D.S.O., killed in action during the Battle of Ypres of 31st July, 1917, while personally investigating the situation of his Battalion's right flank which had been heavily counter-attacked on the morning of August 5th. It was, I fear, due to his great personal courage that he met his end, and not only his courage, but his continual self-sacrifice and untiring zeal to ensure the success of his Battalion and the Brigade. At the same time I wish again to tell the 9th East Surrey Regiment how essential their tenacity in holding this very exposed position was to the main operations. Their sacrifices were just as important as any that were made during the actual attack, and have added to their reputation for steadiness and discipline under shell fire.

(Signed) W. F. SWENY,
Brigadier-General.”

At 3 a.m. on the 15th the Battalion left Dickebusch Camp and took over from a battalion of the 73rd Brigade the Mount Sorrel sub-sector, which lay just to the north of that held by them from the 2nd to the 7th August. They remained in these trenches until the 19th August, the enemy's artillery fire, though

lively at dawn and dusk, being much less than in the previous tour. Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming was in hospital from the 16th to the 19th, Captain Clark commanding the Battalion during his absence. At 8.30 a.m. on the 19th the Battalion was relieved by a battalion of the 17th Brigade and returned to Mic Mac Camp, having sustained the following casualties:—*Killed*: Regtl. Sergt.-Major J. Lindsey and 9 other ranks. *Wounded*: 14 other ranks.

From the 19th to the 23rd August the Battalion remained at rest under canvas, moving at 5 p.m. on the latter day into Divisional Support at Dickebusch, occupying the same camp as on August 11th. On the 24th the Battalion moved into bivouac about 2000 yards north-east of Dickebusch Church, the 72nd Brigade having been temporarily attached to the 14th Division in anticipation of a German attack in force. The threatened attack not being made, the Battalion returned to its camp on the 25th August, and continued there, quietly training till the 27th. Early on this morning it returned to the trenches which it had vacated on the 19th. In them it remained without special incident until August 31st, when it was relieved and marched back to Mic Mac Camp. The following casualties occurred during the tour:—*Killed*: 2 other ranks. *Wounded*: 3 other ranks. During the month drafts totalling 13 2nd Lieutenants and 49 other ranks joined the Battalion.

During the first three days of September the Battalion remained at Mic Mac Camp, in Divisional Reserve, moving in the afternoon of the 3rd to Brewery Camp, Dickebusch, which it had previously occupied at the end of July. On the 3rd September the Distinguished Conduct Medal was awarded to Pte. C. W. Shere for conspicuous gallantry in having held, though wounded in both legs, an advanced post near Groenenburg Farm during the German attack early in August; and Pte. A. Gates was granted shortly afterwards the Military Medal for gallantry on the same occasion.

From September 3rd to 7th the Battalion was in Divisional Support and remained at Brewery Camp. Major-General L. J. Bols, Commanding 24th Division, paid a farewell visit to the Battalion on September 5th and spoke in most complimentary terms of the work of the Battalion during the last month, and of the smart and soldier-like bearing of all ranks.

On September 7th the Battalion left Dickebusch and marched to a line of dugouts on the north side of the Ypres-Menin railway embankment, going into Brigade Reserve, the Brigade front being about Stirling Castle to the east of Sanctuary Wood. While on the march one man was killed and one wounded by an aeroplane bomb. On the 11th the Battalion was relieved by the 3rd Battn. Rifle Brigade and moved back to Mic Mac Camp. Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming received a complimentary message from the Brigadier concerning the very good and hard work done by the Battalion while in Brigade Reserve, often under very trying conditions caused by the use of gas by the enemy. On September 14th the Battalion was conveyed in motor-buses to Strazeele, where it went into billets. Here training was carried on in the morning, the afternoon being devoted to rest and recreation. On the 18th the Battalion was inspected by Major-General A. C. Daly, who had succeeded Major-General Bols in command of the

24th Division. Major-General Daly expressed himself as well pleased with all that he saw. The Battalion then entrained, and detrained at 9 p.m. at Miraumont, whence it marched through Achiet-le-Grand and Bapaume to Beaulencourt, arriving there at 2 a.m. on September 19th. Here the Battalion remained in huts till the 25th, resting. Many of the officers and men took the opportunity of visiting Delville Wood, which lay about five miles south-west of Beaulencourt, and other scenes of the desperate fighting in the Battles of the Somme, 1916, in which the Battalion had taken so gallant a share in August and September of that year.

The 24th Division now formed part of the III Corps, Third Army. On September 27th the Battalion moved by motor-buses to Hervilly, where it went into huts and tents. On the following day the companies marched independently to the trenches, going across country. The Battalion front was 1500 yards east of Hargicourt, a village ten miles north-west of St. Quentin. Three companies were in the first line, and the fourth company was in support close to Battalion Headquarters.

The 29th and 30th September were passed uneventfully. The casualties during the month were 4 other ranks killed, and Lieut. G. L. C. Harry and 8 other ranks wounded. The approximate strength on 30th September was 25 officers and 650 other ranks.

The Battalion remained in the front line east of Hargicourt until the 3rd October, when it was relieved and moved back into Brigade Support at Cote Wood, about three-quarters of a mile south-west of Hargicourt. From the 3rd October until the middle of December the Battalion occupied the same trenches alternately with the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt., the reliefs taking place every five to seven days. The periods out of the front-line trenches were passed by the Battalion either in Brigade Support at Cote Wood or in Brigade Reserve at Vendelles. The tours of trench duty during October were fairly quiet, the casualties amounting to 1 man killed, and 2nd Lieuts. C. R. Cowper and G. H. Bridges and 10 other ranks wounded, mostly caused by the enemy's light trench mortars.

From the 8th to 16th October, Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming attended a Commanding Officers' Course at Auxi-le-Château, and Major Swanton took over the command during his absence.

At 1.30 a.m. on October 26th a successful raid was carried out on the right of the Battalion by the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt., and a feint attack was simultaneously made by the left East Surrey company, directed by Major C. A. Clark. The feint was well carried out, and Major Clark and the Battalion were thanked by the Officer Commanding North Staffordshire for their assistance. The strength on 31st October was approximately 26 officers and 700 other ranks.

On handing over the command of the 24th Division, in consequence of his appointment to the Staff, Major-General L. J. Bols addressed the following letter to Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming:—"October 20th. I want to thank you and the Battalion for all the splendid work you have done during these past strenuous months, and to tell you how deeply I appreciate having had the honour of having

your grand Battalion under my command. May all good fortune go with you in the future."

During the first week of November, when the Battalion was again in the trenches east of Hargicourt, there was considerable artillery activity, and Captain S. S. Horsley was wounded. The Battalion was again in the front line from the 13th to the 20th November. On the latter date at 6.20 a.m. the British attack which initiated the Battle of Cambrai, 1917, was launched on a six-mile front extending northwards from near Gonnelleu, a village seven miles north of the trenches held by the 9th Battn. East Surrey. Simultaneously with the British attack demonstrations took place at many places along the British line, and a carefully organized raid was carried out by the Battalion.

The raiding parties, under Lieut. C. R. Cowper, numbered five, each composed of one officer or N.C.O. and six men. The commanders of parties were: No. 1, 2nd Lieut. G. S. Carter; No. 2, Sergt. A. Bell; No. 3, 2nd Lieut. F. Luty; No. 4, Cpl. Deacon. No. 5, under Lieut. Cowper himself, was to remain at the point of entry and conduct the retirement. 2nd Lieut. Carter led the advance, and while cutting some wire was seriously wounded by a bomb. He was immediately carried back by Ptes. W. J. Mortimer and N. Bell. Sergt. A. Bell, who was at the same time wounded in the face and in other places, jumped into the German trench and drove the two bomb-throwers out of it, eventually killing both men with a well-aimed bomb. Sergt. Bell then returned and re-organized Nos. 1 and 2 parties, and had advanced a short distance when he received the order to retire. 2nd Lieut. Luty and No. 3 party also advanced in a very determined manner, the officer and three of the men being wounded at the outset, but continuing the operation. One of the men was presently shot dead by a German sniper, who was himself killed by Pte. Bundock. 2nd Lieut. Luty then had to withdraw in consequence of his wound, and Sergt. Medlock took up the command of the party, and soon afterwards shot with his revolver two Germans out of a party of three who were encountered. His party was then ordered to retire. The operations in the German trench lasted from twenty to twenty-five minutes, during which time Lieut. Cowper remained at the point of entry and kept up communication with the fighting parties. Aided by Cpl. Deacon, whose example was very valuable, Lieut. Cowper was able to secure the retirement of all the raiding parties; he had been wounded two minutes after the raid began, but stood on the German parapet throughout the operation. Excellent signalling and medical arrangements characterized the raid, as well as the gallantry and coolness of all ranks employed in it. The casualties among the 35 officers and men employed were 3 men killed, 3 officers and 8 men wounded.

At 2 p.m. the Battalion was relieved in the line and was at Cote Wood until the 25th November, when it returned to the front line. A German retirement being thought probable in consequence of the British advance in the Cambrai battle, orders were received to patrol No Man's Land and keep in touch with the enemy in case he retired. Just before midnight on November 27th, 2nd Lieut. E. R. Grantham was shot while patrolling, and died while being carried to the Regimental Aid Post. A letter was received next day from Brigadier-

General Sweny condoling with the Battalion on the loss of a very gallant officer.

On the 29th November advanced parties of the Mhow Battalion, 4th Dismounted Cavalry Brigade, arrived in the afternoon to reconnoitre the Battalion front, which they were about to take over. This Battalion was composed of the 38th Central India Horse and the Inniskilling Dragoons. The relief was, however, postponed in consequence of a German attack to the northward. In the early morning of November 30th a German deserter gave himself up to one of the Battalion posts and furnished much useful information.

The casualties during the month were:—*Killed*: 2nd Lieut. E. R. Grantham and 5 other ranks. *Wounded*: Captain S. S. Horsley, Lieut. C. R. Cowper; 2nd Lieuts. G. S. Carter and F. Luty and 19 other ranks. The strength on 30th November was approximately 28 officers and 750 other ranks.

The following rewards were given for the raid of the 20th November:—Lieut. C. R. Cowper and 2nd Lieut. G. S. Carter, the Military Cross; Serjts. A. Bell and G. Medlock, Distinguished Conduct Medal; Ptes. N. Bell and W. J. Mortimer, Military Medal.

The Battalion was relieved by the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. at 2 p.m. on December 1st and took over "the intermediate line," which was about 1500 yards in rear of the front line. A German attack in prolongation southwards of the German counter-stroke of the 30th November which reopened the Cambrai battle was daily expected and great vigilance was maintained.

In the afternoon of December 5th the Battalion, less one company, was relieved by the 3rd Cavalry Brigade and marched to billets at Vendelles. Here a training programme for a fresh raid was ordered, as the Battalion was required to capture a German prisoner for purposes of identification. This had not been effected in the raid on November 20th, as it had been necessary to kill all the Germans who were at close quarters. Volunteers of all ranks at once came forward for the new raid. On December 8th the Battalion returned to the front line at Hargicourt, where at 8.5 p.m. on the following day a successful raid was carried out on the German front. The raiding party, under Lieut. Thomas, numbered 3 officers and 24 other ranks. A Bangalore torpedo was carried the last thirty yards to the German wire by Lieut. Robin, R.E., and placed in position under the wire. On its explosion a gap was formed in the wire through which the raiding party passed. No. 1 party, under 2nd Lieut. Corley, quickly found a German sentry whom they captured. The whole party then retired under the orders of Lieut. Thomas, and sustained no casualties, in spite of the activity of the German snipers and bombers. The prisoner belonged to the 20th Infantry Regiment, and his identification proved very valuable. The Battalion was congratulated on this successful raid by the G.O.C. IV Corps. The Battalion remained in the line without special incident until the 13th December, when it marched back to billets at Vendelles. On the 14th there was a heavy fall of snow, and on the following day the weather became very hard and frosty, motor transport being much impeded. Training continued as usual till the 19th December, when the Battalion moved two miles west to a new camp at Hancourt, where

much work was found to be necessary. This done, training for war was vigorously carried out in the morning, and for sports in the afternoon. Elaborate preparations for Christmas Day resulted in most successful dinners and entertainments, both greatly enjoyed by all ranks.

On the 29th December a rifle meeting was held in the morning, and an inter-company cross-country race over a course of two and a half miles was run in the afternoon. The winning team, fifteen men of A Company, was chosen to represent the Battalion in the Brigade cross-country race, and won that event in the meeting on New Year's Day. The Battalion was also very successful in the boxing events, winning three out of four of them, and finding the second man in the fourth. On December 17th, Lce.-Cpl. J. Fuller was awarded the Military Medal. The casualties during December were 3 men wounded. The strength on the 31st December was 36 officers and 850 other ranks.

On January 2nd the Battalion moved to Hervilly, about three miles north-west of Vendelles, and took over a comfortable camp from the 1st Battn. Royal Fusiliers. On the 4th officers and men from each company reconnoitred the left Ronnsoy sub-sector which the Battalion was about to take over. (Ronnsoy is one and a half miles north of Hargicourt.) The relief was carried out on the 5th, smoothly and without incident. The British line here held all the high ground, with good observation over all the enemy's movements. Frost and snow continued till the 7th, when the frost broke and the trenches became full of water.

The Battalion remained in the line, with no incident of special interest to be recorded, until January 13th, when on relief by the 1st Battn. Royal Fusiliers it marched back to Hervilly and went into billets. The Battalion remained at Hervilly, nominally at rest, until the 30th January; but numerous working parties were required for work on trenches in the back area. Consequently but little training could be carried out. On January 21st the new Officers' Mess was opened. It was a large hut which comfortably accommodated all the officers, and contained ante-room, mess-room, kitchen and sleeping quarters. Enemy aircraft was very active on the nights of the 27th and 28th, and on the latter night one man was killed and several wounded by bombs.

On January 30th the Battalion took over the left sub-sector Ronnsoy defences from the 13th Battn. Middlesex Regt. The 31st was misty and a quiet day in the trenches.

The following awards were notified during the month:—

Bar to Military Cross: Lieut. L. C. Thomas, M.C., for his conduct of the raid on December 9th, 1917.

Military Cross: Lieut. A. W. Harvey.

Croix de Guerre: Sergt. J. W. Bishop and Pte. A. P. Gowan.

The casualties during the month were six other ranks wounded. The strength on 31st January was 41 officers and approximately 900 other ranks.

The Battalion remained in the line at Ronnsoy until the 7th February, no special incident marking the tour of duty. Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming went on the 5th to the Flying School for Commanding Officers, and Major Clark took over the command. The Battalion was relieved on February 7th in daylight and

marched back to Hancourt, where on the following day a large draft of about 100 N.C.O.'s and men from the recently disbanded 7th Battalion, with nine officers, joined and was distributed among the companies. On February 9th, Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming returned and resumed the command. The Battalion was warned that it had been specially selected for inspection by the Commander-in-Chief, but owing to other engagements the inspection was not made, greatly to the disappointment of all ranks. On February 13th the Battalion moved to Montigny, in Brigade Reserve, and took over the defence of a section of the line in front of Hesbecourt and just south of Hargicourt. On the 18th a further move forward to Cote Wood was made. Here the Battalion was in Brigade Support. On the 19th, Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming went to England on short leave, Major Clark taking over command; and on February 22nd the Battalion relieved the Royal West Kent Regt. in the line at Hargicourt. During the tour of duty the cold was intense, and no Germans were met by the nightly patrols sent out by the Battalion.

The Battalion was relieved in the line by the 2/5th Battn. Manchester Regt. on February 26th, and was conveyed by the light railway to Roisel, where it was quartered in tents for the night. On the 27th it entrained for Villers Bretonneux, and on arrival there marched to La Neuville (eight miles east of Amiens), where the month was ended in billets. The casualties during the month were three other ranks wounded. The strength on the 28th February was 49 officers and 1009 other ranks.

Early on the 1st March the Battalion moved from La Neuville and, entraining at Villers Bretonneux, detrained at Brie, about four miles south of Peronne. From Brie it marched to hutments in the Devise area, some four miles to the south-east, where it remained until March 11th, carrying out training. Lieut.-General Watts, Commanding the XIX Corps, inspected the Battalion on the 9th March, and complimented Lieut.-Colonel Fleming on its smart turn-out.

CHAPTER VIII

APRIL, 1917, TO MARCH, 1918: THE 12TH BATTALION COMPLETES ITS SPELL OF SEVEN MONTHS IN THE ST. ELOI SECTOR; IN THE BATTLE OF MESSINES, 1917; IN THE BATTLES OF YPRES, 1917; IN REST NEAR DUNKIRK: AFTER FOUR MONTHS ON THE ITALIAN FRONT THE BATTALION RETURNS TO FRANCE.

THE 12th Battn. East Surrey Regt. had still to serve another two months in the St. Eloi sector before its turn came to take part in more active operations. The first three days of April the Battalion spent at Ontario Camp, returning to the trenches on the 4th. During the week in camp, Captain R. A. McCulloch had been obliged to relinquish the Adjutancy and was shortly afterwards invalided to England, his eyesight having been seriously impaired by his severe wounds. Major L. H. Hickson, recently appointed to the Battalion, was also invalided on April 4th, and Captain C. T. Williams took over the duties of Second-in-Command.

On the 5th April a raid took place to the southward. The front line of the Battalion was heavily shelled for two hours, 4 men being killed and 1 wounded. The bombardment was continued all day on the 6th, more casualties resulting; and on the 7th, while the 47th Division was carrying out a raid about the Bluff, there was considerable artillery activity. The task of drawing the enemy's fire and so helping the raid, was entrusted to the 12th Battn. East Surrey and 18th Battn. K.R.R.C., and was carried out in a manner which earned the approval of the Divisional Commander. The casualties of the Battalion were light, 1 man being killed and 5 wounded. The 9th, 10th and 11th were disturbed days, and the tour of duty cost a good many casualties. On the 12th the Battalion was relieved in the trenches by the 32nd Battn. Royal Fusiliers and moved to Ontario Camp. After a day's rest, training began as usual on the 14th and continued till the 25th, when the Battalion (strength 29 officers and 935 other ranks) marched from Reninghelst to Steenvoorde, *en route* for the training area north-west of St. Omer. Major-General Lawford expressed high approval of the appearance and condition of the Battalion. On April 27th the Battalion marched to Lederzeele and Wulverdinghe (15 and 17½ miles). The Corps Commander, who was passed on the road, expressed his satisfaction. The march to the training area was completed on the 28th, the Battalion being quartered in and near Nordausques. The 29th was a Sunday, and on Monday the 30th advanced training began with a march, followed by night operations. The casualties during the month were 2nd Lieut. S. H. Morgan (attached 122nd Trench Mortar Battery) and 12 men killed, and 11 other ranks wounded.

During the first fortnight of May the Battalion continued preparing, in the training area, for the coming offensive, and on the 15th marched from Nor-

dausques to billets at Wulverdinghe, on the 16th to Steenwoorde, and on the 17th to Mic Mac Camp, near Dickebusch.

After a day's rest the Battalion relieved the 20th Battn. Durham L.I. on May 19th, taking over the familiar right sector of St. Eloi. The Durhams had carried out raids on the two previous nights, and the trenches were found to be somewhat damaged by the German artillery retaliation. There was considerable artillery activity on the 21st. On May 22nd, to the great regret of all ranks, as the War Diary records, Lieut.-Colonel H. H. Lee, D.S.O., who had been⁴ in indifferent health for some time, was compelled to relinquish the command of the Battalion. He was succeeded by Major E. Knapp, an officer of the South African Defence Force. In the morning of this day a man who was first seen in No Man's Land followed by a German, crawled to our parapet and was pulled in. He proved to be Lce.-Cpl. Faulkner, 7th Battn. South Lancashire Regt., who had been captured four days previously in a raid, but had escaped and lived three days without food in shell holes behind the enemy's front line. Lce.-Cpl. Faulkner had been wounded, and, seeing his condition, Company Sergt.-Major W. G. Hill, 12th Battn. East Surrey, climbed over the parapet in broad daylight and dragged him in, though fired at by the pursuing German until the latter was shot by 2nd Lieut. Puttock. For this gallant act C.S.M. Hill was awarded the Military Medal.

On the 23rd and 24th our artillery was very active bombarding the enemy's lines, and this activity continued until the Battalion was relieved by the 23rd Battn. Middlesex Regt. during the morning of May 26th. The Battalion then marched to Alberta Camp, Reninghelst, where it remained till May 31st, on which day it relieved the 11th Battn. "Queen's" in G.H.Q. Line in front of Scottish Wood, near Dickebusch Lake. The casualties during the month were twelve men wounded. The strength of the Battalion at the end of May was 43 officers and 1020 other ranks.

The incessant bombardment of the enemy's lines continued with great effect on June 1st. The enemy's wire in front of the Battalion was practically gone, and his front trenches were reported to be much damaged. At 9.45 p.m. on the 2nd a party of the Battalion, numbering 3 officers and 68 other ranks, under Captain W. Hagen, carried out a most successful raid. The raid was planned by Major Knapp, who received much credit for the careful and thorough preparation of the operation. At the cost of five men slightly wounded, Captain Hagen's party captured seven prisoners of the 44th Regiment, East Prussian Division, one machine gun, one telephone and several rifles. The other officers with the raiding party were 2nd Lieuts. A. G. Howitt and H. S. Todd. For services on this occasion 2nd Lieut. A. G. Howitt was awarded the Military Cross, and the Military Medal was granted to Sergts. D. S. Maddison and R. W. Mayston, Cpl. M. Coghlan and Pte. H. C. Richardson.

The heavy bombardment of the German lines continued on June 4th, and at 8 a.m. on June 5th the Battalion was relieved by one company of the 26th Battn. Royal Fusiliers and marched back to Chippewa Camp. During the relief Captain W. N. Binney (R.A.M.C.) was severely wounded by a shell.

The 12th Battalion passed one day only at Chippewa Camp making its final preparations for the coming battle. Major Knapp was promoted this day to Lieut.-Colonel. At 9 p.m. the Battalion moved off by way of the rear of Dickebusch, and thence between English and Scottish woods to the concentration area of the Division, in front of "Old French" Trench. A desultory bombardment was in progress as the Battalion moved up, and D Company sustained some casualties. The roads were much congested, but by 1.30 the 122nd Brigade was in position and waiting for the zero hour.

The scheme of operations was as follows: The Second Army, composed of the IX, X and II Anzac Corps, was to capture the Messines Ridge and the enormously strong positions along it, and in continuation of it, which had been held for nearly two and a half years by the Germans. The whole front to be attacked ran for nine miles from Mount Sorel and Hill 60, in the north, to La Douve Brook, in the south. The attacking Divisions of the X Corps were: on the extreme left the 23rd, next to which came the 47th, next the 41st, with the 19th on the right. The objective of the 41st Division, with which we are chiefly concerned, was about 800 yards of a sunken road, prepared for defence by the Germans and called by them the Dammstrasse, with the woods and positions beyond it. The Dammstrasse ran north-east and south-west and lay about one and a half miles south-east of St. Eloi (see General Map of the Ypres salient). Major-General Lawford ordered the 123rd Brigade to capture the first German trench system, up to the Dammstrasse, with the 124th operating on its right. The second trench system was then to be taken by the 122nd Brigade with the 124th again co-operating on the right. When the two first German trench systems had been taken and consolidated, the 24th Division was to pass through and carry the advance on to Oosttaverne.

At 3.10 a.m. on the 7th June the attack opened by the explosion of nineteen great mines under the Messines Ridge, immediately followed by a crushing barrage from the great force of artillery which had been collected. Under the cover of this barrage the first infantry lines, accompanied by Tanks, moved forward with light losses. The Germans, stunned by the mine explosion and overwhelmed by the superiority of our artillery, offered at first but little resistance, and almost along the whole front the first German trench system was easily captured. The 122nd Brigade carried out its task of capturing the second German system with equal ease. To attack it, Brigadier-General Towsey placed the 12th Battn. East Surrey on the right of his line, the 11th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. in the centre, the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. on the left, with the 18th Battn. K.R.R.C. in reserve. On the right of the East Surrey was the 32nd Battn. Royal Fusiliers. At 5.10 a.m. the 12th Battn. East Surrey moved forward under some German shell fire, and at 6 a.m. was in position on the Dammstrasse formed in waves for the assault. At 6.30 the waves moved up close to the barrage, which at 6.50 began to move forward by 50-yard leaps. The East Surrey pressed on close behind it, clearing the German dugouts and trenches in Pheasant Wood and Denys Wood, and taking many prisoners who were too demoralized to offer more than a slight resistance. Lieut.-Colonel Knapp's Battle Headquarters were

moved forward into a shell hole in Pheasant Wood, and the Battalion established itself in Denys Wood by 7.15 a.m., as appointed by the time-table. The line was soon consolidated, and by 8.30 four advanced posts and one observation post had been established. The enemy continued to shell the area with high-explosive shells, causing casualties.

At 3.10 p.m. the British guns opened an intense bombardment on the third German position, and the 24th Division came up and passed through to its capture, which was complete by 5 p.m. The enemy kept up an intermittent shelling of the East Surrey position during the evening, but did little damage. Thanks to the weight and skilful handling of our artillery, the Battalion came off comparatively lightly. Its losses were 30 N.C.O.'s and men killed; 6 officers and 153 other ranks wounded and 6 missing. The officers wounded were Captain A. V. Baker; 2nd Lieuts. W. G. Robinson, W. J. Palk, A. R. Puttock, W. A. Vanner and A. W. England. The Battalion took 268 prisoners, with 2 machine guns and 2 trench mortars, and received messages of congratulation from the Corps Commander, the Divisional General and the Brigadier.

The first phase of the Battle of Messines, 1917, was a brilliant victory achieved in one day. Admirably planned and executed, it reflected the highest honour on the Second Army. The German losses were double those of the attacking army and as abnormally heavy as those of the British were light. These great results were obtained by careful preparation and the skilful co-operation of the artillery, the Royal Flying Corps and the attacking infantry.

The following honours were granted to the Battalion for the Battle of Messines:—

Distinguished Service Order : Lieut.-Colonel E. Knapp.

Military Cross : 2nd Lieuts. F. A. Samuels and H. P. Bailey.

Distinguished Conduct Medal : Company Sergt.-Major W. G. Hill.

Military Medal : Cpl. W. R. G. Mallett; Lce.-Cpl. J. Dove; Ptes. A. Pegg, A. Floyd, W. J. Thompson, W. A. Southwood, W. J. Varrow and H. Wells.

On June 8th the 122nd Brigade was relieved in the position which it had won and moved back to the "Old French" Trench, where it remained till June 12th. The 12th Battn. East Surrey, while still employed in salvage and clearance of the battlefield, was reorganized and prepared for further operations. At 11 p.m. on June 12th the Battalion moved off to occupy a new position in "Oak Support" and "Oak Trench," half a mile south-east of Oosthoek, the relief being completed by 3.30 a.m. on June 13th. Here the Battalion was in support of the 18th Battn. K.R.R.C. and 11th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. On the 14th these battalions carried out a minor operation, driving the enemy out of positions in their front. The East Surrey were not called upon to move. On the following day the enemy made a counter-attack, apparently in force, but were stopped by our artillery barrage.

On June 16th the Battalion moved up at 10 p.m. and relieved the 11th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. in the front and support lines. Battalion Headquarters were established in the cellars of the White Château. At dusk on the

17th a bombing raid was made on "Oblique Trench" north of Hollebeke, but was at once observed and had to return, with 1 man killed and 2nd Lieut. R. D. Brown and 1 man wounded. The German artillery was very active at this time and casualties occurred daily. On June 18th, Captain W. Hagen was wounded, 2 men were killed and 6 wounded. At night on the 19th the Battalion was relieved by the 20th Battn. Durham L.I., the relief being completed by 3.30 a.m. on the 20th. While in reserve the Battalion occupied trenches at Voormezele, the area being constantly shelled. On June 23rd, Lieut.-Colonel E. Knapp went on leave, and Captain C. T. Williams assumed the command.

On June 26th the Battalion was moved to dugouts in the bank of Dickebusch Lake, where it remained in reserve during the remainder of the month. The casualties during the month were:—*Killed* : 38 other ranks. *Wounded* : 8 officers and 203 other ranks. *Missing* : 2 men.

The strength on June 30th was 37 officers and 771 other ranks.

On July 1st, Major H. de C. Blakeney arrived and took command of the Battalion, which moved on July 3rd to a new camp near Vierstraat. Major C. C. Clifford joined this day and took over the duties of Second-in-Command, Captain C. T. Williams proceeding to Aldershot to go through the senior officers' course. On the 6th the Battalion marched to Roukloshille, near Bailleul, in the training area, where it remained till July 23rd. On July 19th, Major R. Pennell, K.R.R.C., assumed temporary command of the Battalion.

On July 23rd the Battalion moved to Wood Camp, near Reninghelst, preparatory to taking over trenches on the following day. On the 24th the Lock House sector near Hollebeke was taken over, the battle strength taken to the trenches being 500: the remainder of the Battalion remaining at Wood Camp. The British artillery at this time was heavily bombarding the enemy's lines and back area, and was answered at intervals by heavy but intermittent fire. Casualties were not heavy, but on July 26th, 2nd Lieut. B. C. Stenning was mortally wounded, dying on the 27th, on which day 2nd Lieut. Aston was seriously wounded near Optic Trench.

The combined Allied offensive which developed into the Battles of Ypres, 1917, was now imminent. According to the initial plan, the Fifth (British) Army was to attack on a front extending from Boesinghe, three miles north of Ypres, round to the Zillebeke-Zandvoorde road. The Fifth Army was to be supported on its left by the First French Army attacking north of Boesinghe, and on its right by an advance of the Second (British) Army, to which the 41st Division belonged. This operation has now received the official title of the Battle of Pilckem Ridge.

On the 30th July the 122nd Brigade moved to its battle positions, and at 5.30 a.m. on the following day advanced against Hollebeke. The 12th Battn. East Surrey, being in support, remained in the trenches, but continually sent forward carrying parties to the assaulting battalions. At 7 p.m., B Company, under Captain Howitt, moved out to attack a German strong point which was still holding out in Hollebeke. The attack was successful, and Captain Howitt

established a line in front of Hollebeke. 2nd Lieut. H. P. Bailey was killed and 2nd Lieut. A. M. Mackintosh was wounded this day.

For gallant conduct in this action the Military Cross was conferred on 2nd Lieut. A. M. Mackintosh (4th Battn. att'd.), and the Military Medal on Sergt. H. Dickson; Cpl. S. G. Sarvant; Lce.-Cpls. J. A. Baker and E. E. Bolton; Ptes. A. Broderick, C. Daw, J. T. George, A. Hoare, D. Lynch, H. Manley, H. Scott, A. Trussler, C. Turner, C. T. Tustin and G. Wilkins.

The casualties during the month were:—*Killed or mortally wounded* : 2 officers and 4 other ranks. *Wounded* : 2 officers and 45 other ranks.

The strength on 31st July was 37 officers and 950 other ranks.

On August 1st the remainder of the Battalion moved up and occupied the line in front of Hollebeke established by B Company and extending to Forret Farm. Major Pennell and Captain Walker inspected the position now held and found the support trenches (occupied by A and C Companies) in a very damaged and wet condition, and those two companies much weakened by sickness. The enemy's artillery was very active on the first three days of August, but was quieter on the 4th.

Very early on August 5th, after a heavy barrage lasting two hours, the enemy attacked the advanced line of posts held by B and D Companies, in a thick mist, which prevented the S.O.S. signals sent up from being seen, and the posts were captured before reinforcements could be sent up to their assistance. Major R. Pennell, K.R.R.C. (in temporary command), turned out the Headquarters company and advanced with it to restore the line. A company of the Hampshire Regt. was picked up in the Support Line and the advance was continued to within 200 yards of Hollebeke, where it was stopped by machine-gun fire and snipers. A few Germans had been encountered and made prisoners, but no information as to the strength or position of the enemy could be obtained from them. Major Pennell's party was now in touch on the left with another Hampshire company, and he was able to send forward a fighting patrol into Hollebeke, which reported the village to be clear of the enemy. The whole line was then pushed forward, and posts were established slightly forward of the line held prior to the German attack. In this unfortunate affair Captain A. G. Howitt, M.C., a most gallant officer, was killed, 2nd Lieut. R. W. Gurrin was mortally wounded, 2nd Lieut. Haynes was wounded and 2nd Lieuts. F. A. Samuels and L. H. Jennings were captured by the enemy. In the evening the Battalion, about ninety strong, moved back to Bois Confluent, near St. Eloi; while the details, under Captain Openshaw, moved up to the line as a platoon of a composite company formed from each battalion in the Brigade. Lieut.-Colonel E. Knapp, having returned from leave, resumed command of the Battalion, and Major Pennell rejoined his own unit.

On August 6th a few of the men who had been missing since the previous day reported themselves at Bois Confluent. They had attached themselves to the Staffordshire Regt. during the fighting on the 5th. The Battalion was ordered to proceed to Dezon Camp, and was conveyed there by motor-buses on August 7th, when the task of reorganization was at once undertaken and was quickly

completed. On August 10th the Battalion returned to the forward area, with a fighting strength of 5 officers and 253 other ranks, with which five posts were taken over.

The Battalion remained in the line without any incident of importance until the night of August 13th, when it was relieved by two companies of the 12th Battn. Sussex Regt. and two companies of the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. One man was killed and five were wounded during the relief of the last company. The Battalion rested at Wiltshire Camp, near Elzenwalle, during the 14th August until 9.15 p.m., when it marched via Dickebusch Lake to Hallabaste Corner, whence it was conveyed in motor lorries to Roukloshille. Here a couple of days were spent in reorganization, and on August 17th the Battalion marched to Meteren, where the Corps Commander inspected the 122nd Brigade. Lieut.-General Morland warmly congratulated all ranks on the recent fighting round Hollebeke.

On the 20th August the Battalion paraded at 5.30 a.m. and marched to Zuytpeene, where it was billeted for the night. On the 21st the march was continued to Le Nieppe, whence the Battalion went in motor lorries to Zudausques, near St. Omer, where training at once began. On the 24th the 41st Division was inspected by the Commander-in-Chief, after which training continued till the end of the month, somewhat interfered with by rainy weather.

In addition to the awards already mentioned, the following rewards were granted to the Battalion during the month:—

Military Cross: Captain H. S. Walker and Lieut. D. Walker.

Distinguished Conduct Medal: Sergt. G. D. Prosser.

The casualties during the month were:—*Killed or mortally wounded*: 2 officers and 48 other ranks. *Wounded*: 1 officer and 97 other ranks. *Missing*: 2 officers and 42 other ranks.

The strength on August 31st was: Officers, 36; other ranks, 736.

The Battalion continued training at Zudausques till September 4th, the work done being mainly training by companies in the attack. On the 14th the Battalion marched to Staple; on the 15th to Flêtre (the strength this day being 41 officers and 823 other ranks). On September 16th it marched to Chippewa Camp, on the 17th to Ridge Wood and on the 18th to Lankhof Farm, one and a half miles south of Ypres near the canal, where it approached the scene of the coming attack in which it was to take part.

The operations known as the Battles of Ypres, 1917, had already lasted over seven weeks and were yet far from their end. These battles, which followed one another in rapid succession until the 10th November, constituted one of the greatest struggles in the history of war, and, having regard to the terrible weather conditions which marked the concluding phases, they probably entailed a higher degree of endurance on the part of the attacking troops than any other group of battles. The third battle, known as the Battle of the Menin Road Ridge, which opened on September 20th, was fought on a front of about eight miles, and, save that it did not extend beyond Langemarck on the north, it covered nearly the same ground as did the operations of the 31st July. General Sir Hubert Gough's

Fifth Army again attacked on the left, and Sir Herbert Plumer's Second Army on the right. The X Corps was near the extreme right, only the 39th and 19th Divisions attacking south of it. In the X Corps, the 41st Division was on the right and the 23rd on the left, with the 21st and 33rd in reserve.

The order of battle of the 41st Division was:—*Right*, 124th Brigade; *Left*, 122nd Brigade; *Reserve*, 123rd Brigade. And that of the 122nd Brigade was:—*Right*, 18th Battn. K.R.R.C. in first line and 12th Battn. East Surrey in second line; *Left*, 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. in first line and 11th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. in second line. The attack was to be made on the leap-frog principle, i.e. each battalion in first line was to capture, consolidate and mop up its objective area, after which the battalions in second line were to pass through and capture the next objective. The objectives were, for the 18th Battn. K.R.R.C. and 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. the two first German lines; for the 12th Battn. East Surrey and 11th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. the third German line.

Returning to the story of the 12th Battn. East Surrey, which we left on September 18th near Lankhof Farm, Lieut.-Colonel Knapp held a conference of company commanders in the morning of September 19th, when the orders for attack were explained. At 11 p.m. the Battalion, with a battle strength of 18 officers and 447 other ranks, moved off by companies in very heavy rain to the Brigade place of assembly near Bodmin Copse, about one and a half miles east of Zillebeke, two men being wounded on the way. The rain unfortunately lasted from 9 p.m. till 1 a.m. The Battalion arrived at the place of assembly at 3 a.m. on September 20th, A and B Companies forming the first wave, C and D the second wave. On the left were the 11th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt., and on the right the 26th Battn. Royal Fusiliers, of the 124th Brigade. In consequence of the heavy rain during the night the ground was under water.

The barrage opened punctually at zero hour, viz. 5.20 a.m., and remained for three minutes 150 yards ahead of the first line, thus enabling the 18th Battn. K.R.R.C. to form up close to its protection. The barrage then moved forward towards the first German line at the rate of 200 yards in eight minutes. The 12th Battn. East Surrey followed the 18th Battn. K.R.R.C. and reinforced them when they were held up by a German strong point about 150 yards east of Bodmin Copse. This check lasted for an hour, at the end of which period the enemy was dislodged by the use of rifle grenades. The advance was then resumed and the 122nd Brigade fought its way across the upper valley of the Bassevillebeek and up the slopes of the "Tower Hamlets" spur south of Veldhoek, capturing the German second line. Here heavy machine-gun fire from Veldhoek and the "Tower Hamlets" was encountered; but the capture of Veldhoek by other British troops soon afterwards enabled the Brigade to establish its front across the "Tower Hamlets" spur. The Brigade on its right, however, had been unable to keep up with this advance, and the right of the 12th Battn. East Surrey was consequently exposed to machine-gun and snipers' fire, so that it became necessary to form a defensive flank in that direction. The captured position was then consolidated.

The Battalion continued to hold its ground throughout September 21st, though many casualties were caused by snipers, machine-gun and shell fire. Battalion Headquarters were heavily shelled, and Lieut.-Colonel Knapp, who had been slightly wounded by a sniper on the 20th, received a severe shell wound which eventually cost him the use of his right arm. Major A. W. Puttick, 11th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt., then assumed command of the Battalion, Captain H. S. Walker becoming Second-in-Command. The Battalion remained in position on the 22nd September, being relieved at about 1 a.m. on the 23rd by the 13th Battn. Royal Sussex Regt. and moving by Towsey's Track to Ridge Wood. At 4.30 p.m. the Battalion moved to Ouderdom, where it entrained for Caestre.

Its losses on September 20th and 21st had been heavy, amounting to 9 officers and 37 N.C.O.'s and men killed or died of wounds; and 5 officers and 226 men wounded.

The officers killed or died of wounds were: Captain D. McCallum; Lieut. A. T. Libby; 2nd Lieuts. H. N. Dunkley, S. Lasenby, L. W. B. Russell, J. McL. Hutcheson, F. J. Harding, T. B. Jolly and R. E. White. Those wounded were: Lieut.-Colonel E. Knapp; Captain H. S. Openshaw; Lieuts. D. Walker and C. N. Pridham; 2nd Lieut. F. R. Matthews.

The following list gives the honours subsequently awarded for the Battle of the Menin Road Ridge from the 21st to 23rd September:—

Military Cross : Captains W. L. A. Harrison (R.A.M.C.) and E. V. White-way; Lieut. J. A. Rogers; 2nd Lieuts. W. D. Mutch (4th Battn. attd.), C. H. Ward and H. S. Todd.

Distinguished Conduct Medal : Company Sergt.-Majors C. J. Love and R. W. Mayston; Pte. A. Trussler.

Bar to Military Medal : Lce.-Cpl. L. C. Southall.

Military Medal : Company Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. W. H. Barnes; Sergts. G. Hammond and J. F. Radcliffe; Cpl. S. Woodcock; Lce.-Cpl. W. A. Aitken; Ptes. E. Connor, T. Cunningham, F. Davey, G. F. Greaves, G. L. Huxley and H. Kenyon.

Belgian Croix de Guerre : Company Sergt.-Major R. W. Mayston and Pte. G. Reeves.

The 24th September and following days were occupied in reorganization and company training, and during the morning of the 28th the Battalion moved by motor lorry to Uxam; on the 29th it moved to the seaside at La Panne (near Dunkirk), where it ended the month. The casualties during September were:—*Killed or died of wounds* : 9 officers and 68 other ranks. *Wounded* : 5 officers and 226 other ranks.

The strength on September 30th was: Officers, 28; other ranks, 649.

The Battalion remained at La Panne from the 1st to the 15th October continuing company training. The existing deficiencies in officers were made good, Major C. T. Williams becoming Second-in-Command on October 1st, and Major A. J. Williams rejoining for duty on the 2nd. The Battalion having been warned that it would take over the trenches in the Nieupoort sector, Major A. W. Puttick

reconnoitred them on the 4th. On the 8th, Captain H. S. Walker took up the duties of Adjutant. On October 15th the Battalion paraded at 8.30 a.m. and marched to Oost Dunkerke Bains to take over the Coast Defences from the 10th Battn. "Queen's." The relief was completed by 1 p.m.

On October 17th another change in the command took place, Lieut.-Colonel A. W. Puttick being transferred to the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. His successor was Lieut.-Colonel C. F. Stallard, of the Royal West Kent Regt. The Battalion remained on duty in the Nieuport sector until October 29th, the situation being normal throughout the tour. There was occasional shelling by the German guns, but casualties were very light. The sector was taken over by the South African Brigade in the afternoon of the 29th, when the Battalion moved by lorries to Conderkerque, where it remained until the 12th of November. The casualties during the month were five other ranks wounded. The strength on October 31st was: Officers, 40; other ranks, 864.

The 41st Division now received orders to move to the Italian front, and on November 12th the Battalion set out in two trains on its long journey. On the 16th the Italian frontier was reached, when a cordial welcome was given to the Battalion.

On this day an unfortunate accident resulted in the death of 2nd Lieut. M. T. Johnson. On November 17th the Battalion detrained at Mantua, and the two wings were billeted at Guidizzolo and Goito respectively. The strength of the Battalion on arrival in Italy was 42 officers and 876 other ranks. On the 18th the two companies from Goito marched up and joined the Headquarters and the other companies at Guidizzolo.

On November 19th the Battalion marched to Malavicina, and on the 20th to Isola della Scala, where it rested on the 21st. The march was resumed on November 22nd to Presina, 23rd to Vo, 24th to Longara and 25th to Pieve, where it halted on the two following days, baths being provided. The last three days of the month were also march days, the Battalion reaching Casacorba on the 28th, Santa Luca on the 29th and Cusignano on the 30th.¹ There were no casualties in action during the month.

On December 1st the Battalion marched into the Montello Range area on the River Piave, to which the Italian Armies had retreated after the Twelfth Battle of the Isonzo. On arrival the Battalion took over the reserve lines from an Italian regiment. In front was the 11th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt., which was holding the right front-line sector of the left British brigade. On the 2nd the front was perfectly quiet. There was a thick mist, and the Battalion was employed all day in preparing bivouacs, improving dugouts, etc., which latter work was carried on daily. On and after December 5th, however, most of the work had to be done by night owing to activity of the enemy's aircraft and artillery. On December 8th an Italian airman brought down an Albatross containing a German lieutenant, who was severely wounded. The German had

¹ For the general situation and for the description of the Italian front at this period see Chapter I of Vol. III and map opposite page 18.

94 THE NEW YEAR (1918) IN THE MONTELLO RANGE SECTOR

recently been employed on the Russian front, and seemed much surprised to find himself among English troops and attended by an English surgeon.

At night the Battalion relieved the 11th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. in the front line, which was held by three companies with the fourth in support. The supporting company supplied road patrols and guards. The 9th and 10th December were not marked by any special incident, but on the 11th the enemy opened a heavy bombardment, causing eleven casualties. On December 14th a draft of 87 men joined the Battalion, bringing the strength up to 36 officers and 897 other ranks. In the evening of December 16th the Battalion was relieved by the 11th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. and marched to billets at Giavera. Here daily and nightly working parties carried on the construction of trenches behind Nervesa. As Christmas was to be spent in the trenches, the Battalion was allowed a general holiday on December 21st, a dinner being given to the men by Lieut.-Colonel Stallard.

On Christmas Eve the Battalion relieved the 21st Battn. K.R.R.C. in the left battalion front of the right sector, Montello Range. Here two companies were in front, with two in support. The front included an island, which was held by fifteen rifle and Lewis-gun posts. During the remainder of the month the Battalion was hard at work strengthening and draining the defences of the sector. On December 31st the Battalion was relieved by the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. and went into support to the two battalions in the front line. The relief was carried out in exceptional quiet as regards the artillery on both sides.

The casualties during the month were 2 other ranks killed and 15 wounded. Lce.-Cpls. T. Long and G. Ponman and Pte. G. Harbridge were at a later date awarded the Military Medal for acts of courage during the month.

The first five days of the New Year were devoted to hard work in improving shelter from shell fire, which was scanty. This was necessary, as the support area was occasionally subjected to heavy bombardment. The work was hard owing to frosty weather, and slow owing to a shortage of R.E. material. January 6th was a day of rest, after which work was carried on as before until January 10th, when the Battalion was relieved at night by the 20th Battn. Durham L.I. and marched to billets at Volpago. The billets here were very good, most of the civil inhabitants having been cleared out. Part of the village was occupied by Italian soldiers. The Battalion remained at Volpago, undergoing hard exercise of various sorts, until January 16th, when it marched to Altivole, continuing the march on the following day to Loria, where it was to undergo a course of training. The strength on beginning the course was 41 officers and 860 other ranks. The course, which began on January 19th, was continued during the remainder of the month and was of a thorough and progressive nature. Hard training was carried on during the mornings, six days a week; while the afternoons were devoted to football, running and sports. Brigadier-General Towsey inspected the Battalion on the 29th and 30th, and expressed himself well satisfied with its state. One man was wounded during the month.

From February 1st to 15th the Battalion remained at Loria, completing its course of training, which was concluded by Brigade tactical operations on the

14th. The 15th was devoted to cleaning billets, and on the 16th the Battalion marched to Altivole. On the 17th February it marched to the Montello left Divisional sector and relieved the 10th Battn. Northumberland Fusiliers (23rd Division) in support of the right Brigade. The state of the defences and the conditions prevailing enabled the companies to continue active training while in support.

In the evening of February 25th, in consequence of the 41st Division having been ordered to return to the Western Front, the Battalion was relieved by a battalion of the 23rd Division and marched to Pederiva. On the 26th it marched to Ca. Amata, and on the 27th to Tombolo, where it halted on the 28th. There were no casualties during the month.

On March 1st the Battalion marched to Carmignano, where it entrained at noon. Milan was reached at midnight, and Modane at a quarter to seven in the morning of March 2nd. After a rapid journey the Battalion arrived at Amiens at 10 p.m. on the 4th, and detrained at Mondicourt on the 5th, marching thence to billets at Halloy, near Doullens. The strength on arrival was 42 officers and 878 other ranks. The Battalion remained at Halloy, carrying on training without special incident, until March 19th, when it received orders of readiness to move at any moment. Drafts of 40 and 24 men respectively arrived on the 18th and 19th, and on March 20th Lieut.-Colonel Stallard proceeded on leave to England.

CHAPTER IX

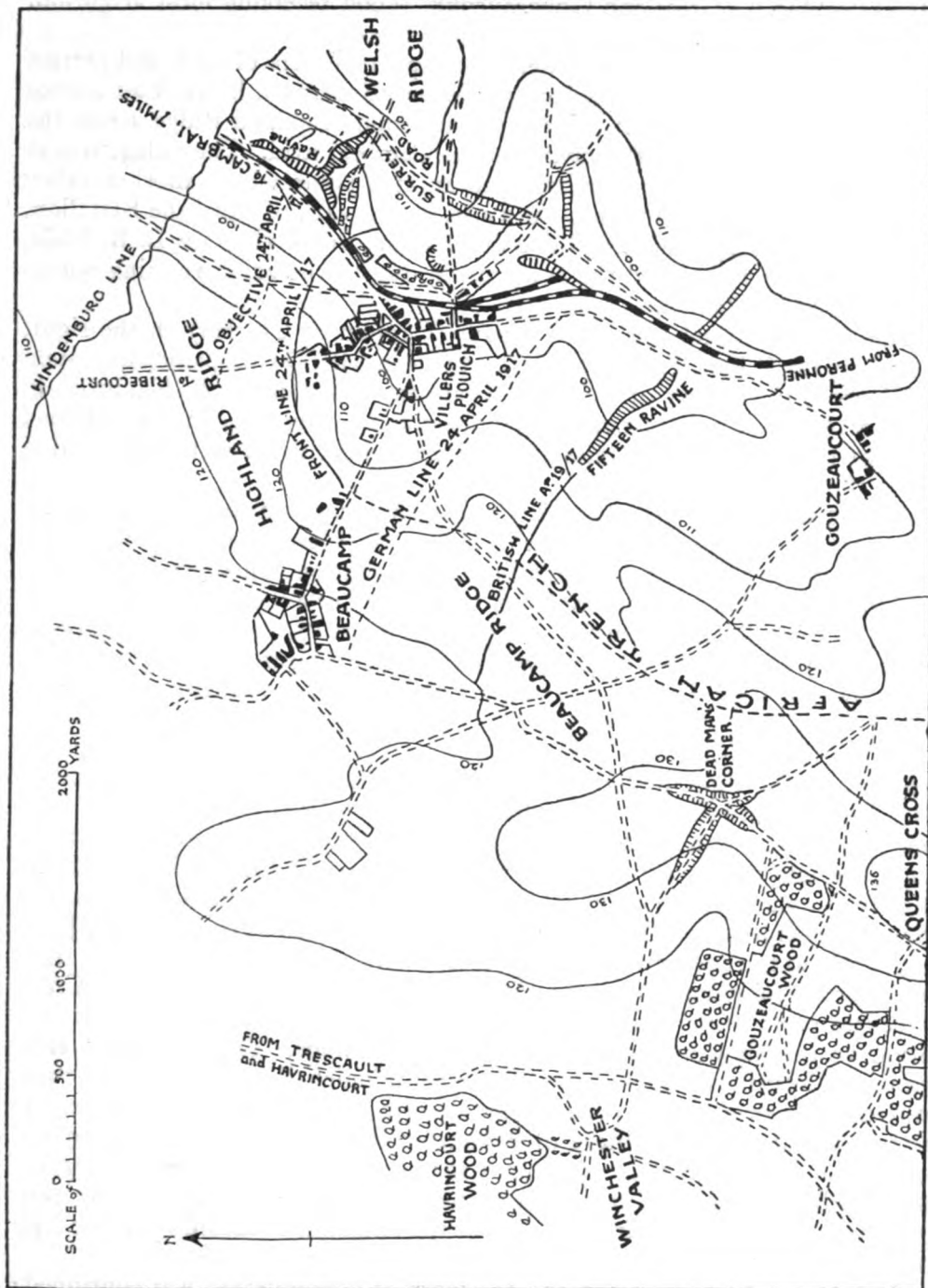
APRIL, 1917, TO MARCH, 1918. THE 13TH BATTALION CAPTURES VILLERS-
PLOUICH, AND AFTERWARDS PASSES FIVE MONTHS IN THE LINE IN THAT
AREA. IN THE BATTLE OF CAMBRAI, 1917. FIGHTING IN BOURLON
VILLAGE AND WOOD. IN THE LINE BETWEEN ARRAS AND BAPAUME AND
IN RESERVE NEAR ARRAS.

DURING the first fortnight of April, 1917, the 13th Battn. East Surrey was employed under the Construction Engineer of the Fourth Army on the Maricourt-Peronne railway, and continued to be stationed at Curlu, on the River Somme. On April 15th, Lieut.-Colonel W. C. Newton went to attend the Fourth Army School at Flixécourt, and Captain L. B. Mills assumed the command. On April 16th the Battalion marched north-eastwards to Equancourt via Allaines. Equancourt had been almost destroyed by the Germans in their retreat to the Hindenburg Line; but shelter was found among the ruins of the village for the Battalion, which rested there on the 17th, and during the 18th until nightfall. The Battalion then moved forward and relieved the 20th Battn. Middlesex Regt. (121st Brigade) in the front line at Gouzeaucourt Wood, ten miles south-west of Cambrai. There were no trenches except at four small isolated outposts, the men being accommodated in bivouacs and small shelters.

The situation was fairly quiet on the 19th, but the enemy searched Gouzeaucourt Wood with his shells during the day, the Battalion coming off lightly with one man killed. During the night a line of resistance was made, with barbed-wire defences, along the north-eastern edge of the wood. There was a similar dropping shell fire during April 20th. A strong point was constructed just south of the sunken road which ran through the wood.

On April 21st the Battalion made an advance of about one mile in conjunction with the 119th Brigade on its right, and the 11th Battn. Royal Lancaster Regt. on its left, to a line extending from Fifteen Ravine to a point about 800 yards south of Beaucamp. This advance was made without opposition, and a series of strong posts along the new front was held by portions of A, C and D Companies. The remainder of these companies held the line of resistance along the north-east border of Gouzeaucourt Wood, B Company remaining in reserve. Three men were wounded during the day.

April 22nd was a quiet day except for occasional shelling. Preparatory operations towards the intended capture of Villers-Plouich were carried out by other troops. During the night a continuous trench about 4½ feet deep was dug along the Battalion's new front. The enemy's snipers were very busy, causing the following casualties:—*Wounded*: 2nd Lieut. F. C. Johnston (mortally), Lieut. L. A. Seeley, 2nd Lieut. F. L. Warland and four rank and file. The enemy's artillery became much more active on April 23rd, the sunken roads and



THE CAPTURE OF VILLERS-PROUICH BY THE 13TH BATTALION, ON THE 24TH APRIL, 1917, AND THE ADVANCE OF THE 1ST BATTALION IN THE BATTLE OF THE CANAL DU NORD, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.

the track to Queen's Cross and Gouzeaucourt Wood receiving most attention. One man was killed and nine wounded during the day.

The 40th Division was now ordered to capture Villers-Plouich and certain adjacent high ground; and the objective allotted to the 13th Battn. East Surrey was the village and, beyond it, a line running from Highland Ridge across the Cambrai railway and along the ravine to the Cambrai road. The village was in the valley traversed by the Cambrai railway at a point where another valley branched westwards to Beaucamp. At 2 a.m. on the 24th of April the Battalion, with a strength of 24 officers and 600 other ranks, under Captain L. B. Mills, moved forward and occupied the new trench, dug on the 22nd, running north-west from Fifteen Ravine.

The order of attack was: B Company (Captain E. Crocker) on the right, and A Company (Lieut. F. J. T. Hann) on the left, with D Company (A/Captain L. I. Deacon) in support of B, and C Company (Captain H. P. Naunton) in support of A. Each man carried two sandbags and two bombs, and one platoon of each of the support companies carried entrenching tools, in the proportion of three shovels to one pick.

At 4.15 a.m., the time of attack, the Battalion crept in four waves towards the enemy's wire, following the British barrage; the German artillery answered, but its fire at this time was wild and did little execution. In seven minutes the first German trenches were entered and captured after a short struggle, and the advance on the village continued. During this advance a good deal of trouble was caused by the enemy's strong points and machine-gun emplacements, but this was overcome by the concentrated fire of Lewis guns and daring attacks by bombers.

Villers-Plouich was reached at 5.30 a.m., and the Battalion was split up into three parties, the right under Captain Crocker, the centre under 2nd Lieut. G. R. Alexander and the left under Captain Naunton. The right party met with strong opposition, but reached the ravine about 700 yards north-east of the village. Captain E. Crocker was killed at this moment, and Lieut. F. J. T. Hann took over command of the party. It was during this advance that Cpl. E. Foster, who was in charge of two Lewis guns, attacked and, assisted by Lce.-Cpl. J. W. Reed, captured the enemy's machine-gun teams which were holding up the right party. For his conspicuous bravery Cpl. Foster was awarded the Victoria Cross. The centre party went through the western half of the village, and took up a position on the high ground known as Highland Ridge. The left party, after storming a German strong point on the Villers-Plouich-Beaucamp sunken road, captured the enemy's position after a sharp fight, taking over 100 prisoners. It was then found that the village of Beaucamp had not been captured by the troops detailed for that task, and that a further advance by the left party was consequently useless. The captured German strong point was therefore consolidated, and a defensive flank thrown out to command Beaucamp and the high ground to the north-east of that village.

At 6.30 our barrage ceased and the work of consolidation was continued; but ten minutes later the enemy opened a very heavy artillery fire on the centre

and right parties. Their defences being of course slight, it was decided to withdraw them for a time to available cover on the eastern outskirts of Villers-Plouich. These two parties then withdrew together, and the entrances to the village were secured with the Lewis guns. At 7 a.m. the 14th Battn. H.L.I. arrived as a reinforcement, and the line was again advanced by the 13th Battn. East Surrey some 300 yards beyond the village. At 9 a.m. Captain L. B. Mills was wounded, and Captain Naunton assumed command of the Battalion. Strong posts were established on the advanced line now occupied, and although the enemy opened a very heavy fire at 8.30 a.m., which continued for six hours, they were firmly held. The bombardment slackened at 2.30 p.m., but the enemy kept up an occasional fire on Villers-Plouich¹ and the entrances to it.

The losses of the Battalion in this fine action were heavy:—

Killed: Captain E. Crocker; 2nd Lieuts. G. R. Alexander (Royal Sussex Regt. att'd.) and R. N. Goodyear and 26 other ranks.

Wounded: Captains L. B. Mills, L. I. Deacon; 2nd Lieuts. H. W. Newman, R. M. Meadows, E. L. Morley, C. J. de Beaurepaire, N. F. Barlow, W. A. Morris and 152 other ranks. In addition to the above, 10 N.C.O.'s and men were reported missing, but all were subsequently found to have been killed. A total loss of 11 officers and 188 other ranks.

The number of prisoners captured by the Battalion at Villers-Plouich was 4 officers and about 300 other ranks; 10 machine guns and about 500 rifles were included among its trophies. The honours awarded to the Battalion for the capture of Villers-Plouich were:—

Victoria Cross and Médaille Militaire: Cpl. E. Foster.

Distinguished Service Order: Captain H. P. Naunton.

Military Cross: Captain L. B. Mills.

Distinguished Conduct Medal: Lce.-Cpl. J. W. Reed.

Military Medal: Sergts. J. A. Briggs and J. Knight; Cpls. W. Morgan, G. K. Jennings and C. J. Richards; Pte. A. W. Brooker.

On the 25th April the village of Beaucamp was captured by the 11th Battn. King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt., and at dusk that evening the 13th Battn. East Surrey was relieved at Villers-Plouich by the 13th Battn. Yorkshire Regt. and marched back to Equancourt, where it remained during the rest of the month. Lieut.-Colonel W. C. Newton returned from Flixécourt on April 26th and resumed the command of the Battalion. While at Equancourt three men were wounded by long-range shells.

The total casualties of the Battalion in April, 1917, were:—*Killed*: 3 officers and 38 other ranks (including 10 at first reported missing). *Wounded*: 11 officers and 171 other ranks (including 1 officer mortally wounded).

On the 1st May the Battalion relieved the 14th Battn. H.L.I. as Brigade Support at Queen's Cross, and remained so posted till May 6th. Two companies

¹ On Michaelmas Day, 1920, the Wandsworth Borough Council "adopted" the village of Villers-Plouich, under the scheme of the British League of Help, in memory of its recapture by the Battalion from the Germans.

worked every night on the front-line defences. On the 6th, Lieut.-Colonel W. C. Newton proceeded to the XV Corps Rest Station, near Abbéville, and Major T. H. Foster, 14th Battn. H.L.I., took over temporary command of the Battalion, which during the night relieved the 14th Battn. H.L.I. in the right sub-sector, Gouzeaucourt.

On May 7th a readjustment of the Brigade front caused the Battalion to move to its left, to a line covering Villers-Plouich. On the 9th, Captain C. C. Dowding, 11th Battn. Royal Lancaster Regt., was temporarily attached as Second-in-Command. Two of the enemy were killed in front of the Battalion wire. A patrol went out and brought in all their papers and the necessary identifications. The men belonged to the 162nd Regiment. On May 12th the Battalion was relieved by a battalion of the 60th Brigade, and moved back into billets at Sorel-le-Grand. While there the reserve company and two platoons of the support company worked in the front line every night.

During the night of May 13th the Battalion relieved the 2nd Battn. West Yorkshire Regt. as Brigade Reserve, remaining at Sorel until the 18th May. On the 15th, Captain C. C. Dowding left the Battalion, and Captain W. G. West, from the 1st Battn. Notts and Derby Regt., was appointed Second-in-Command with the temporary rank of Major. On the night of May 18th the Battalion relieved the 14th Battn. H.L.I. in the line east of Gonnellieu, where the situation continued fairly quiet. On the 22nd, Major T. H. Foster rejoined his own battalion, and Major West took over the command.

On the night of May 23rd a patrol went out under 2nd Lieut. T. B. Mills to reconnoitre the enemy's wire. The patrol missed its direction and arrived at the outskirts of Banteux, where 2nd Lieut. Mills went forward alone to inspect the wire. The enemy then observed the patrol, and opening heavy machine-gun and rifle fire on them, forced them to retire. Search was made for 2nd Lieut. Mills, but he could not be found, and it was subsequently ascertained that he died of his wounds on May 24th, when a prisoner of war. On May 25th the Battalion was relieved by a battalion of the 35th Division and withdrew via Gouzeaucourt to Dessart Wood, where it was accommodated in tents and shelters. During the night of May 26th the Battalion took over the duties of Brigade Support. On May 27th and 28th slight changes of disposition were made, the Battalion moving to its left. On May 31st, Lieut.-Colonel W. C. Newton resumed command of the Battalion. The casualties during the month were: 3 other ranks killed, 2 wounded and 1 officer missing.

On June 2nd the 40th Division became part of the III Corps, and on the following night the Battalion relieved the 14th Battn. H.L.I. in the right sub-sector between Gonnellieu and Villers-Plouich, where it remained on duty for a week. On the night of June 11th the Battalion was relieved by the 20th Battn. Middlesex Regt., of the 121st Brigade, and withdrew to Dessart Wood, where it was accommodated in tents and shelters. The tour of trench duty had been very quiet and uneventful. The Battalion remained in Dessart Wood for a week, the time being occupied in platoon and company training, varied by athletic sports and working parties.

On June 19th the Battalion moved into Brigade Reserve in the Villers-Plouich sector, sending up large parties nightly for work on the front line. The Battalion continued to be so employed for nine days. On June 24th, Captain H. P. Naunton and two men were wounded, and on the night of the 27th the Battalion relieved the 11th Battn. Royal Lancaster Regt. in the right sub-sector about 1000 yards east of Villers-Plouich. During this day the enemy shelled part of the Battalion front, killing 2 and wounding 2 men.

At midnight 29th/30th, the enemy, under cover of a heavy barrage, attempted to raid a sap-head in the Battalion line. The attacking party came at once under a heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, and was repulsed with loss. The Battalion had 8 men slightly wounded. The casualties during the month were: 2 other ranks killed and 10 wounded.

The enemy's trench mortars and artillery fired on the sap-head during July 1st, killing 1 man and wounding 1. Two officers' patrols searched No Man's Land at night. Lieut.-Colonel Newton went to England on short leave, and Major W. G. West took over the command. On July 3rd the Brigade frontage was rearranged, the Battalion moving slightly to its right. The enemy's artillery was very active on July 5th, 2nd Lieut. M. McEwan (5th Battn. attd.) and 1 man being killed and 10 men wounded. At night the Battalion was relieved by the 11th Battn. K.O.R. Lancaster Regt. and moved into Brigade Support in Fifteen Ravine. The Battalion remained so posted until the night of the 13th, one company working each night on the front line, and the others making improvements in the shelters, etc., in Fifteen Ravine. Lieut.-Colonel Newton returned from leave on July 12th, and on the night of the 13th the Battalion returned to the right sub-sector east of Villers-Plouich. The front had been extended and two companies were posted in first line, one company in support and one in reserve. On the 14th the enemy shelled the Battalion front, 2 men being killed and 7 wounded.

The next five days in the trenches passed without special incident; but on the night of July 20th two raids were attempted on the enemy's trenches, one by twenty men with a Lewis gun, under 2nd Lieut. J. W. Wilson, and the other by thirty men, under Lieuts. V. W. Scott and A. L. Anderson. Both parties showed much determination in attempting to carry out their programme, and 2nd Lieut. Wilson was afterwards awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry on this occasion. They came under very heavy fire and eventually had to retire. Lieut. Anderson was wounded, and it was with great difficulty that he was brought in. Three men were also wounded.

On July 21st, Cpl. E. Foster was presented with the Victoria Cross by H.M. the King, and on the same night the Battalion was relieved in the trenches by the 14th Battn. H.L.I. and moved into Brigade Reserve at Gouzeaucourt. Here it remained until July 28th, during which period each company spent two days in the camp near Dessart Wood, obtaining baths and firing on the range. On the night of the 29th the Battalion took over the left sub-sector north-east of Villers-Plouich, where it finished the month. The casualties during the month were:—*Killed*: 1 officer and 10 other ranks. *Wounded*: 1 officer and 42 other

ranks. The strength on July 31st, 1917, was 29 officers and 500 other ranks approximately.

The Battalion remained in the left sub-sector, Villers-Plouich, without special incident until the afternoon of August 6th. Patrols were sent out regularly at night, which searched the front but met no German patrols. On August 10th the Battalion returned to the left sub-sector. On August 12th, Lieut.-Colonel Newton was admitted to hospital, and in the afternoon of August 14th the Battalion was relieved from the trenches and went into Brigade Support at Fifteen Ravine. On August 18th, Lieut.-Colonel H. L. Warden, Royal Scots, took over the command of the Battalion, to which he had been appointed. The Battalion remained in support until August 20th, carrying out a programme of platoon and company instruction and inspection. On the 20th the left sub-sector Villers-Plouich was again taken over. On the night of the 21st a patrol was suddenly heavily bombed in Fifteen Ravine. One man was killed and 2nd Lieut. C. B. Rose and eight men wounded. Sergt. J. Sutcliffe, who was severely wounded in the knee, was taken prisoner. On hearing of this incident, Lieut. V. W. Scott twice organized search parties and remained with them for several hours in "No Man's Land, showing a complete disregard of danger as well as initiative and resource." For this service Lieut. Scott was awarded the Military Cross. He subsequently joined the R.F.C. and was killed while flying. Fifteen Ravine was again searched on the 22nd August, and on the nights following standing patrols were posted in it. On the 26th the Battalion was relieved early in the afternoon and moved into Brigade Reserve about Gouzeaucourt Wood.

On August 29th the Military Medal was conferred on Lce.-Cpl. A. E. Cartwright for his gallant conduct on the night of August 21st, when the above-mentioned patrol, which he accompanied, suffered heavy casualties. Lce.-Cpl. Cartwright had been greatly instrumental in bringing back the wounded to the Battalion lines, and throughout displayed great courage and enterprise. The month ended without further incident. The casualties during the month were 1 man killed and 1 officer and 8 men wounded.

During the afternoon of September 1st the Battalion relieved the 11th Battn. Royal Lancaster Regt. in the left sub-sector Villers-Plouich, which it held until the afternoon of the 7th, with no special incident. The usual patrolling and work were carried on.

On September 7th the Battalion withdrew into Brigade Support in Fifteen Ravine, where work was carried out as usual until September 13th, when it again took over the left sub-sector, Villers-Plouich and Beaucamp sector. The tour of duty lasted six days and was uneventful. Patrols of from sixteen to eighteen men, under an officer, went out every night and searched the front. In the afternoon of September 19th the Battalion was relieved by the 11th Battn. Royal Lancaster and withdrew to Brigade Reserve in Gouzeaucourt and Dessant Woods. Here the usual training was carried on until the 25th September, on which day the Battalion paraded before the Corps Commander. In the evening the Battalion returned to its former post in the line at Beaucamp and Villers-Plouich, where it remained until the end of the month. The normal patrol

activity was maintained, the enemy being also much on the alert, but showing less enterprise. The only casualties during the month were five men wounded on the 30th by fire from hostile aeroplanes. The strength on the 30th September was 19 officers and approximately 480 other ranks.

On October 1st the Battalion was relieved by the 11th Battn. King's Own Lancaster Regt. and took the place of the 14th Battn. H.L.I. as Brigade Support about Fifteen Ravine and Charing Cross. The 40th Division was now being relieved by the 20th Division, and was under orders to move back for a rest in the Arras area. Accordingly the 13th Battn. East Surrey was withdrawn to a camp at Heudecourt, and on the 6th was conveyed by lorry to Peronne, where it was billeted in ruined houses. The Battalion remained in Peronne till the afternoon of October 9th, when it moved by rail to Boisleux-au-Mont, whence it marched to Bernéville, five miles south-west of Arras. On the 18th October the 40th Division, which had been temporarily with the VII Corps, was re-transferred to the III Corps. The Battalion remained at Bernéville until the 29th October, carrying on a regular course of training and musketry. On the 29th it marched to billets at Grenas, near Doullens, where the month was ended without incident. There were no casualties during the month.

During the six months that the Battalion had spent in the front line in the Villers-Plouich area, and in rest near Arras, the Battles of Arras, 1917, the Battle of Messines, 1917, and the Battles of Ypres, 1917, had been fought, and preparations were now in progress for a surprise operation on the Cambrai front, where the German garrisons had been much reduced by the large concentrations effected by the enemy on other more threatened fronts.

From the 1st to the 15th November the Battalion remained at Grenas, undergoing a vigorous course of training for the coming operations on the Cambrai front. The attack was assiduously practised, and attention was given to wood-fighting. On November 2nd, Lieut.-Colonel Warden resumed the command on relinquishing that of the 120th Brigade, which he had held for ten days during the absence on leave of Brigadier-General Willoughby. On the 16th November the Battalion marched to billets at Bernéville, and on the following day to huts at Courcelles-le-Comte. On the 18th orders of readiness for action were received, and on the evening of the 19th the Battalion left Courcelles and marched to Beaulencourt, via Achiet-le-Grand and Bapaume. On November 20th, the day on which the Battle of Cambrai, 1917, commenced, the 40th Division was transferred back from the VI to the IV Corps; and on the 21st the Battalion marched at 4 a.m. via Haplincourt to Lebusquière, where it was accommodated in tents. On the 23rd November the Battalion marched to Demicourt and, crossing the Canal du Nord, arrived at the Hindenburg Support Line. Battalion Headquarters were near Flesquières, which had been captured by British troops on the 21st November.

On the 24th November the Battalion moved up to the Hindenburg Support Line, about three-quarters of a mile south-west of Graincourt, and at 9.15 that evening the Commanding Officer was instructed to report for orders to the Brigadier-General Commanding 121st Infantry Brigade at Graincourt. He was

there informed that during the day the 14th Battn. H.L.I. had pushed through Bourlon village (see map opposite) and was holding a small portion of the railway line north of it, including the station and a trench running eastward from the station; also that the 119th Brigade was holding the eastern portion of the northern edge of Bourlon Wood. The 13th Battn. East Surrey was ordered to clear the western portion of Bourlon village of any enemy parties holding out there, for which task they were to have the assistance of Tanks if these were available. This done, they were, if possible, to prolong to the westward the H.L.I. line north of the village, so as to secure the north-west and south-west outskirts of the village.

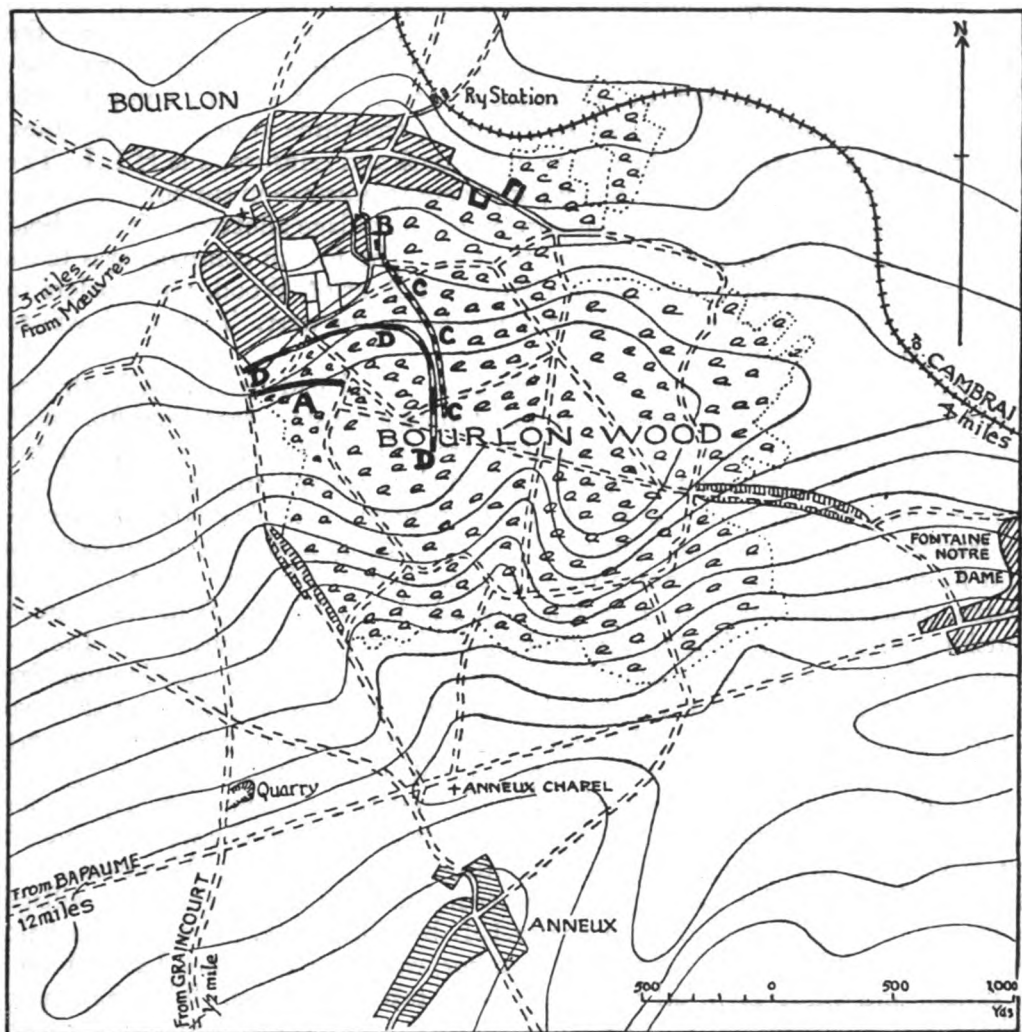
The intention was to clear an opening about Bourlon, through which cavalry might pass and capture Cambrai, which was the centre of the objective and of great strategic importance as a railway centre. Simultaneous operations were proceeding against Fontaine-notre-Dame and Mœuvres (respectively east and west of Bourlon).

Bourlon Wood was composed of high trees and was very dense, there being but few tracks through it. It stands on a ridge running east and west which rises steeply from the south, and within some 150 yards of the northern boundary of the wood slopes rather less steeply down to Bourlon village and the comparatively level ground between it and the Sensée River, some six miles further north. The importance of Bourlon Ridge and its menace, if held by the British, to the German defences south of the Sensée River were, of course, obvious to both sides.

Lieut.-Colonel Warden at once started from Graincourt to carry out his personal reconnaissance and, if possible, to make his way to the headquarters of the 14th Battn. H.L.I., in order to arrange operations with Lieut.-Colonel Battye, commanding that battalion. On arriving at the Quarry, half a mile west of Anneux Chapel, he found there some officers of other units of the 40th Division, who informed him that they were holding the sunken road running from Anneux Chapel north-west through the cross-roads north of the Quarry; that there were no British troops north of that road, and that consequently the 14th Battn. H.L.I. must have been wiped out. Undeterred by this information, Lieut.-Colonel Warden pushed on, and found that the enemy was holding the north-eastern portion of Bourlon Wood as far south as the sunken road leading to Fontaine-notre-Dame. The south-western quarter of the wood was free of the enemy and was being continuously shelled by the Germans, seemingly to prevent reinforcements reaching the H.L.I. Lieut.-Colonel Warden decided, therefore, to bring up his Battalion while it was still dark through the western outskirts of Bourlon Wood and through Bourlon village, and to reinforce the H.L.I. with part of his Battalion, mopping up the village with the remainder.

Before setting out from Graincourt the Commanding Officer had sent a message to the Battalion to meet him at Anneux Chapel at 3.30 a.m. on the 25th November; but he was in time to intercept it about 1000 yards north of Graincourt on the direct road to Bourlon village, and led it thence across country to the sunken road at the south-western corner of Bourlon Wood.

Under heavy shell fire he assembled his company commanders and gave



THE 13TH BATTALION AT BOURLON, 24TH TO 27TH NOVEMBER, 1917.

- A** = Line reached by the Battalion at 5.45 a.m., 25th November.
- B** = House occupied as Battalion Headquarters by 14th Battalion H.L.I., and later by 13th Battalion East Surrey Regiment.
- CC** = Approximate line of trenches dug and held by D Company, and later part of C Company, on 25th November.
- DD** = Approximate line of trenches dug and held on 26th November after the withdrawal from the village.

106 UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO CLEAR BOURLON VILLAGE

orders for an advance to a line about 250 yards south of Bourlon village, adding that on reaching that line he would issue further orders as the situation demanded. The line in question was reached about 5.45 a.m. on the 25th November, at the cost of a dozen casualties from shell fire and machine-gun fire, and the final plan was then communicated to the Battalion. Briefly, the plan was this: Bourlon village was divided into three sectors, to each of which a company was allotted. The leading platoons of A, B and C, the three attacking companies, were to go straight through the village in the dark and reinforce the H.L.I. The remaining three platoons of each company were to advance in support in successive lines, and each was to clear the portion of the village allotted to it and hold the exact sector which it was ordered to clear. The fourth company was to be held in reserve on the north-western fringe of Bourlon Wood, with orders to guard against any flank attack from the north-west or west. The attack was to commence at 6.15 a.m.

All the roads south and west of Bourlon Wood had been heavily shelled during the night, and the enemy had maintained a constant searching fire on all the ground between Bourlon and Graincourt. No Tanks had arrived, but the orders for the attack were not conditional on their arrival, and the advance was consequently commenced as ordered. No barrage was possible owing to the configuration of the ground, and punctually at 6.15 the operation began in darkness and heavy rain. A few minutes later, Lieut.-Colonel Warden found the 14th Battn. H.L.I. Headquarters in a house (marked "B" in map) in the eastern outskirts of Bourlon village. He explained his plan of operations to Lieut.-Colonel Battye, who approved of it. At about 6.30 a.m. heavy machine-gun fire was opened from the north, east and south on the house occupied by the two Commanding Officers, and it became evident that strong parties of the enemy were in the north-eastern portion of Bourlon Wood. As there were no signs of an attack from the west flank, the East Surrey reserve company (D), under Captain J. R. Hucker, was directed south-eastward through the wood to cut off or drive back any Germans found operating from the south. Meanwhile the leading platoon of A Company had succeeded in reaching north of the village a trench recently captured from the H.L.I. by the enemy. The platoon held this trench until noon on the 26th November, when the survivors, Lieut. F. W. Lanham and three men, all wounded, were taken prisoners. The remaining platoons of A, B and C Companies had been unable to force their way through Bourlon village, so C Company was withdrawn and placed in a position running south from the 14th Battn. H.L.I. Headquarters and facing east. C and D Companies, aided by the reserve company of the 14th Battn. H.L.I. and the headquarters personnel of that Battalion, subsequently repelled several German attacks from the south-east, but could not gain touch with the 110th Brigade.

At 7.15 a.m. Lieut.-Colonel Battye was mortally wounded, dying five minutes later. Lieut.-Colonel Warden then assumed command of all troops in Bourlon village, and established his Battalion Headquarters in the house previously occupied as such by the 14th Battn. H.L.I. This house was a small farm-building in a yard enclosed by a wall, and, in spite of its exposed situation, it was

decided to hold it as a strong point, since it could be prepared quickly for defence and would link up the position held in the wood with the troops fighting in the village. Accordingly the east side of the building was at once loop-holed and manned, and a part of the south side was afterwards similarly treated. Snipers were posted also to fire through gaps in the tiled roof.

At 7.45 a.m. orders arrived to capture the railway line north-east of the village; but Lieut.-Colonel Warden, recognizing that his position in Bourlon Wood must be held at all costs, and that two of his companies were still fighting in Bourlon village, decided that sufficient troops could not be spared for a further advance. Five minutes later the enemy advanced in force from the east, attacking the Headquarters house and the line held by the two East Surrey companies in the wood. This attack was met by rifle and machine-gun fire, and by 8.45 a.m. had been driven off with considerable loss.

During the day several German reconnoitring parties were similarly driven off, and the position was strengthened. Attempts to clear the village were also renewed, but without success, and two platoons of D Company, which had been sent there for that purpose, were withdrawn and utilized for the further strengthening of the line now held, which included the north-west corner of the wood, a portion of the village, and the position in the wood running southwards from Battalion Headquarters. Early in the afternoon the position of the front line of the 119th Brigade was ascertained, and touch with it was obtained. The position held by the Battalion was then organized to better advantage, the companies digging in with entrenching implements (nothing better being available), and receiving written orders that the line was to be held at all costs, in view of the vital importance to the Cambrai operations of the high ground in Bourlon Wood which they were holding. Later in the day two mortars were brought up by an officer of the 121st T.M. Battery, and their fire made an appreciable impression on the enemy's machine gunners, snipers and "minenwerfer."

In the evening a message was received that the 40th Division was to be relieved that night, and that Tanks had been ordered up and would be used to facilitate the withdrawal of the H.L.I. companies north of Bourlon and of any troops still fighting in the village. The completion of the withdrawal was to be reported and the relief would then take place. The Tanks did not arrive that night.

At 8.30 a.m. on November 26th a search party was sent out, but failed to find the Tanks. Two hours later, Lieut.-Colonel Warden reported to Brigade Headquarters that the relief had not taken place as arranged, and asked for orders. Owing to a chain system of runners which had been arranged, this message was carried quickly and without casualty to Graincourt.

In the course of the day the enemy repeatedly showed signs of attacking, and in the afternoon registered the Headquarters house in Bourlon with "minenwerfer." As the house was gradually being demolished it became necessary to leave it; but this could not be done till dusk on account of the machine-gun and rifle fire on all sides. At 5 p.m. the Headquarters personnel of the 13th Battn.

108 13TH BATTN. RELIEVED AND WITHDRAWN FROM WOOD

East Surrey and 14th Battn. H.L.I. were withdrawn in parties of three from the house, and Headquarters were established in a dugout in the wood. In anticipation of an attack on the ridge at night, two more lines of trenches had been dug facing north and extending through the wood. This work was carried out with intrenching implements under heavy fire by D Company and part of C Company, under Captain J. R. Hucker, who, with his men, did fine service. Repeated efforts to obtain communication with and send food and ammunition to the advanced companies of the H.L.I. had failed, and it could only be hoped that relief would be afforded to them by a successful attack on a large scale.

At 10.30 p.m. information was received that the 62nd Division were to pass through the position held by the Battalion and renew the attack next day, and it was finally decided that all the troops under Lieut.-Colonel Warden's orders should be withdrawn sufficiently early to clear the way for the attack. Accordingly, between 5.30 and 6 a.m. on the 27th November, as soon as the leading troops of the 62nd Division had passed through, Lieut.-Colonel Warden's advanced troops were collected under cover near his Headquarters dugout. Commencing at noon, all were withdrawn in parties of ten, each under an officer or senior N.C.O., to the Hindenburg Support Line under heavy artillery, aeroplane and machine-gun fire; but, owing to careful arrangements, casualties were few.

The casualties of the 13th Battn. East Surrey in these most gallant and admirably conducted operations were: 7 officers and 217 other ranks, viz.:—

Killed: Captain W. N. Lowe (Highland L.I. attd.); 2nd Lieuts. C. I. Henderson and F. G. Wheatcroft (6th Battn. attd.); 35 other ranks.

Wounded: Lieut. R. H. Harker (P. of W.); Lieut. F. W. Lanham (P. of W.); 2nd Lieut. P. G. de Beaurepaire; 111 other ranks.

Missing: 71 other ranks.

Among the company officers who specially distinguished themselves at Bourlon were Captains Lowe and A. B. Burton, both of whom originally belonged to the H.L.I., but had long been serving with the 13th Battn. East Surrey. Of Captain Lowe, Lieut.-Colonel Warden writes: "He was one of the finest men I ever met; a splendid fellow, a great athlete and a leader who was absolutely loved by his men." Captain Burton commanded C Company, the withdrawal of which by Lieut.-Colonel Warden from the right sector of Bourlon village has been mentioned. Of him, Lieut.-Colonel Warden writes: "Captain Burton was a very fine soldier and did splendidly at Bourlon. I gave him a most difficult task, to guard a spur in the wood, which was not only tactically important for the major operations, but the possession of which by the Germans would have wiped us out altogether. He held that ridge against all comers. He was killed on the Lys in April, 1918." 2nd Lieut. W. B. Parker, who also set a splendid example to his platoon when under heavy fire in Bourlon Wood, was subsequently awarded the Military Cross.

The conduct of Lieut.-Colonel Warden received the highest commendation, and he was in due course awarded the Distinguished Service Order, the notification of the honour being worded as follows:—

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took command of the advanced troops in an attack, and maintained his headquarters in a forward position under heavy fire. He drove off three enemy counter-attacks, and handled his reserve with such skill as to be able to withdraw without loss. He then maintained a position where he was able to keep in touch with three companies of another battalion which were under his command. He showed splendid initiative and skill."

Further honours subsequently awarded to the Battalion for the Bournon action were as follows:—

Military Cross: Captains A. B. Burton and J. R. Hucker; Lieuts. W. B. Parker (5th Battn. attd.) and S. Rutherford; 2nd Lieut. G. Beaumont (6th Battn. attd.).

Distinguished Conduct Medal: Regtl. Sergt.-Major J. A. Lee; Sergt. H. T. Piper; Pte. R. S. Fuller.

Bar to Distinguished Conduct Medal: Sergt. A. W. Bennett.

Military Medal: Sergt. J. Dooley; Cpl. E. Catlin; Lce.-Cpls. J. Chase and D. Smyth; Ptes. A. Bance, H. Castle, R. Dibble, J. Edwards, C. Johnstone, H. J. Thatcher and W. A. Wills.

On November 28th, as the 40th Division had been withdrawn from the front line and was transferred back to the VI Corps, the Battalion moved from its position in the Hindenburg Support Line, and, marching via Havrincourt to Metz, was conveyed thence by lorries to Bapaume. From Bapaume the Battalion moved by motor-bus to Blaireville, five miles south-west of Arras, and spent the 29th November in refitting.

On the 30th November orders were received that the Battalion was to be held in readiness to move at two hours' notice, the reason being that about 7 a.m. on that date the Germans had counter-attacked on a front of some ten miles between Masnières and Vendhuile, both of which villages are situated on the St. Quentin Canal to the south of Cambrai; while two hours later the German main counter-attack had opened west of Cambrai on a six-mile front, with Bournon as the centre. It was not long, therefore, before the Battalion found itself again in the front line, this time at Fontaine-les-Croisilles, some eight miles west of the enemy's main counter-attack. With the exception of some short periods in reserve in billets at Hamelin-court, five miles back, the Battalion occupied the Fontaine trenches for about three weeks, under severe winter conditions, and continually harassed by the enemy's plentiful use of gas-shells, which caused numerous casualties. On one day—December 12th—two company commanders were wounded, viz. Captains J. R. Hucker and L. I. Deacon; and also Lieut. Rutherford.

Towards the end of December the 40th Division moved a few miles southward and relieved the 3rd Division in the line south of Bullecourt. The Battalion when in the line held the Horse-shoe Redoubt, and when in reserve occupied huts in No. 8 Camp, Mory. The conditions as regards weather and enemy's gas-shells were the same as they had been in the Fontaine trenches.

On January 2nd the Battalion left No. 8 Camp, Mory, and relieved the 11th Battn. Royal Lancaster Regt. in the left sub-sector Noreuil, six miles north-east of Bapaume. During the remainder of the month the Battalion held the same sub-sector alternately with the 11th Battn. Royal Lancaster Regt., the relief taking place every four days. The intervals between the tours of duty in the front line were spent by the Battalion either in support or at Mory in Brigade Reserve. There were no special incidents during the tours in the front line beyond occasional heavy bursts of artillery fire.

On January 16, Lieut. D. E. Berney, of the United States Medical Service, took over the duties of Medical Officer to the Battalion from Lieut. MacGregor (R.A.M.C.), who went to England on leave. The casualties during the month were: 3 killed and 25 wounded.

The Battalion was in Brigade Reserve at No. 8 Camp, Mory, during the first three days of February. On the 3rd, Lieut.-Colonel Warden took over temporary command of the 120th Brigade, Major West succeeding to that of the Battalion, and at night the Battalion relieved the Royal Lancaster Regt. in the left sub-sector, Noreuil, where it remained for a week with no special interest. There was a fair amount of artillery activity during the tour, and 2nd Lieut. W. E. Dobb was wounded on the 7th. On February 10th the Battalion was relieved by the 2/6th Battn. North Stafford Regt. and withdrew to Armagh Camp, whence it was conveyed by motor-bus on the following morning to No. 3 Camp, Hendécourt, six miles south of Arras, the 40th Division being now in G.H.Q. Reserve.

On February 12th a draft of 9 officers and 192 other ranks joined from the 7th Battn. East Surrey, which had just been disbanded. The officers, N.C.O.'s and men were equally divided among the companies.

On February 16th the Battalion was permanently transferred to the 119th Brigade, in consequence of the reorganization of brigades on a three-battalion basis, and moved to York Lines, Mercatel. It returned to Hendécourt on the 23rd, and on the following day Lieut.-Colonel Warden resumed the command from Major West. Training of all kinds continued briskly, combined with sports, football, etc., and the remainder of February and the first twelve days of March passed without special incident, except during a period when the transport and details at Armagh Camp were bombed nightly by hostile aeroplanes which took advantage of the brilliant moonlight. Though a good deal of damage was done, the Battalion transport was again lucky, and the casualties of the whole Battalion during February did not exceed 2 officers and 20 other ranks wounded.

SECTION II

MARCH, 1918, TO JULY, 1918

**THE GERMAN OFFENSIVES, 1918, INCLUDING THE FIRST BATTLES OF THE
SOMME, 1918, AND THE BATTLES OF THE LYS. OPERATIONS IN SALONIKA.**

CHAPTER X

MARCH TO JULY, 1918: THE 1ST BATTALION IN THE DEFENCE OF THE FORET DE NIEPPE DURING THE BATTLES OF THE LYS; ITS SUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON THE GERMAN LINE AT ARREWAGE; IN THE ACTION OF LA BECQUE.

ON the 2nd April the 1st Battn. East Surrey, with a strength of 32 officers and 816 other ranks, entrained at Tavernelle, south-west of Vicenza, in two trains. The route followed on this occasion was via Milan, Turin and the Mont Cenis Tunnel, thence across France through Amiens to Frévent, where the two wings detrained on the 6th April and marched to billets in Le Souich, five miles north of Doullens.

By this time the German offensive in Picardy had reached its conclusion, and from the 6th April the conditions in the British line south of Lens gradually became those of trench warfare. The 5th Division was therefore ordered to relieve the 2nd Canadian Division south of Arras, and the 95th Brigade was detailed to take over the left sub-sector of the Neuville-Vitasse sector. The necessary movements for this relief had already commenced, the 1st Battn. East Surrey having moved on the 9th April to Grenas and started thence for Bailleulmont on the following day, when the relief was cancelled and the Battalion was sent back to Grenas, and during the night received orders to entrain at Mondicourt next morning.

This alteration of plans was due to the fact that on the 9th April the Germans commenced their offensive in Flanders. On that day and the day following was fought the Battle of Estaires, in which the XI Corps of the First Army was attacked to the north of the La Bassée Canal, and, while holding on to Givenchy with its right, was forced back on the other flank till its left stood south-west of Estaires. On April 12th the 5th Division was posted to the XI Corps and was directed to concentrate in rear of it south-west of the Forêt de Nieppe.

Meanwhile, owing to the late arrival of the trains, the 1st Battn. East Surrey did not leave Mondicourt till the afternoon of the 12th. In several places the railway traversed was close enough to the fighting line to be under shell fire, and the junction at Choques, just west of Béthune, had specially suffered, a train having been cut in two by a shell during the morning. The Battalion detrained at Thiennes, at the western corner of the Forêt de Nieppe, at 7.30 p.m., and after a short march reached its billets at Boeseghem.

An intended counter-attack on Merville, which had been captured by the Germans on the 11th, having been countermanded, the 5th Division was ordered to take up a defensive position facing east through the centre of the Forêt de Nieppe; the 95th Brigade being detailed to hold the left of this position. During its forward march, however, the Division was directed to a more advanced

position just beyond the forest and facing south-east towards Merville; and the 1st Battn. East Surrey, being in Brigade Reserve, was consequently posted at Le Pré-à-Vin in the forest near the Hazebrouck-Merville road. This position was reached just before dark, many civilian fugitives from Merville and the neighbouring villages having been met with on the way.

On the left of the position now occupied by the 5th Division the situation threatened to become serious, as the Germans in an overwhelming attack, which commenced at 8 a.m. on the 12th, had driven a gap through the British line half-way between the Forêt de Nieppe and Bailleul and had captured Merris and Outersteene.

On the 13th, with the object of widening this gap, the Germans threw superior forces against the 4th Guards Brigade, which was on the left of the 5th Division about La Couronne. The Guards fought magnificently, but were forced back some distance towards the forest. In conforming to this retirement the left company of the D.C.L.I., of the 95th Brigade, lost heavily, but the enemy also paid dearly for his slight success.

When the situation was at its worst, General Horne, Commanding the First Army, had issued a spirited order affirming his complete confidence that "at this critical period, when the existence of the British Empire is at stake, all ranks will do their very best." The stout resistance offered by his troops enabled the leading brigades of the 1st Australian Division to reach their appointed position east of the forest during the afternoon of the 13th, and thus to close the way to Hazebrouck.

During this day the casualties of the 1st Battn. East Surrey were slight, as the two companies not employed on the construction of the support line along the southern edge of the Bois D'Aval were withdrawn into the wood out of the zone of shell fire. One man only was wounded, and 2nd Lieuts. H. Lonergan and P. W. Hubbard, though slightly wounded, remained at duty.

At 9.30 a.m. on the 14th April the 5th Division and the troops on its left were heavily attacked. For several hours large parties of the enemy made repeated attempts to advance by short rushes under cover of heavy machine-gun fire. Against the left sector of the Divisional front, which was held by the 95th Brigade, these attempts failed with heavy loss. On the right the 13th Brigade lost some ground, which was quickly regained with the help of the Devons.

Beyond furnishing an ammunition-carrying party to the D.C.L.I., the 1st Battn. East Surrey was not engaged; but its casualties were one man killed and Captain G. W. Kennedy, 2nd Lieut. J. J. Hewlett and eight men wounded. In the evening, C Company was ordered forward to act as reserve to the D.C.L.I., who had suffered heavily. As Brigadier-General Lord Esmé Gordon-Lennox had been wounded early in the day, Lieut.-Colonel Minogue took command of the Brigade until he handed it over to Lieut.-Colonel Norton (D.C.L.I.) on the following day.

April 15th was a fairly quiet day. After dark the 1st Battn. East Surrey relieved the D.C.L.I. in the left sub-sector of the left sector, west of Arrewage (see map opposite page 118). As the front-line trenches were 1900 yards in

length, they absorbed all four companies, the average strength of which was not much over 100. Three companies of the D.C.L.I. were, however, in immediate support. The depth of the trenches in the sector was limited to 18 inches, as water was struck below that level; consequently, in order to obtain the requisite amount of cover, it was necessary to build up breastworks.

The orders for the day issued by the 5th Division stated that Commanding Officers should conserve the strength of their men as much as possible, as the Division must contrive to hold its present position without relief. The enemy, however, was to be kept away from the edge of the Forest of Nieppe, and consequently a policy of active patrolling was to be carried out, and ground was to be gained whenever this could be effected without serious fighting.

There was not much activity on the 16th April, and the 95th Brigade was relieved by the 15th during the night, the 1st Battn. East Surrey withdrawing to Le Parc in the Reserve Divisional Line through the centre of the forest. The casualties of the Battalion during its tour in the front line had been 2 men killed and 2nd Lieut. J. V. Woolgar, M.C., and 9 men wounded. 2nd Lieut. Woolgar's wound was very severe and resulted in the loss of a leg.

The 17th was spent in cleaning up and improving the bivouac in the forest. Two men were killed and two wounded this day, but the three days following were free from casualties. Much work was done on the Reserve Line, as the enemy was expected to renew the attack. He did so, in fact, on the 18th, but further to the south, where the 1st Division defeated his attempts to capture Festubert and Givenchy in the operations known as the Battle of Béthune.

After dark on the 21st April the 95th Brigade took over the right sector of the Divisional front, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey occupied the right sub-sector (Le Corbie) between the southern edge of the forest and the River Lys. The ground was very open, and communication by day had to be maintained by telephone. Two companies held the front line, which was 1500 yards in length and consisted of a series of posts each garrisoned by a section. There was very little wire and the line was thinly held, one company being in support and one in reserve.

During the Battalion's tour in the line, which lasted six days, it lost 8 men killed and Captain H. C. Mason, Lieuts. W. Johnson and N. L. Tuckwell, 2nd Lieut. A. S. Eighteen and 23 other ranks wounded.

On relief by the Devons after dark on the 27th, the 1st Battn. East Surrey withdrew to Bois Moyen, the central portion of the forest, where it remained till the end of the month, having meanwhile 4 men killed, 3 wounded and 4 of the Battalion cooks gassed. Two companies were accommodated in trenches, while the other two worked every night in the right sub-sector.

On May 3rd the 95th Brigade was relieved by the 15th, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey moved back to Villorba Camp in the Bois D'Amont, the western portion of the forest. Great attention was being paid at this period to precautions against mustard gas, and a solution of bicarbonate of soda was issued, with which all ranks were ordered to wash faces and hands daily to counteract its blistering effects.

The Battalion relieved the Royal West Kent Regt. in sub-sector L.3 (Pont Tournant) astride of the River Bourre during the night of May 9th. Three companies were in the fire trenches and one in support. The tour in these trenches was not marked by any special incident, and on the 14th May the Battalion was relieved after dark by the Devons and took up the reserve position previously held by the D.C.L.I. This early relief took place in order that the Battalion might receive special training for an attack which had been planned against the enemy's trenches between Pont Tournant and Arrewage.

On May 16th the Battalion withdrew to Arcade Camp, where a taped plan of the British trenches and the German trenches facing them in the area of the attack was laid out. Detailed instruction and rehearsals were carried out during the two days following, and at 8 p.m. on the 19th the Battalion went forward to relieve the three companies of the Devons in the line north of the River Bourre. The other Devon company south of the river remained in the line.

Patrols sent out immediately after the relief reported that the German wire entanglement was still a formidable obstacle, notwithstanding the wire-cutting barrages which had taken place early on the 18th and 19th, and the hedges which screened the right and left of the position to be attacked were as yet undamaged. During the night, therefore, parties were sent out to attempt to cut gaps in these obstacles. The party on the left, under Lieut. A. E. Dempster, was discovered by the enemy and driven back by machine-gun fire, its commander being wounded. The party on the right continued to cut gaps in the wire until at 2 a.m. the wire-cutting barrage commenced and forced them to withdraw. As a result of further inspection of the obstacles by daylight an observed artillery shoot was directed from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the 20th on the hedges and wire in front of the eastern portion of the line selected for attack, with the result that the wire was cut in many places and the hedge breached.

At four o'clock in the afternoon of the 20th the code word "Cheero" came through from all companies, signifying that everyone was in position, and twenty-six minutes later the British barrage opened on the enemy's trenches. It was particularly well placed, and when, three minutes later, the three leading East Surrey companies left their trenches no hostile machine guns came into action. The attack ended in complete success, each leading company reaching its objective and capturing two machine guns.

On the left, D Company, under Lieut. G. G. C. Niven, had for its objective the orchard and house on the east side of the road to Les Puresbecques. These were taken with some prisoners, and the company then established itself in the German trenches south-east to north-east of the orchard, and made excellent practice on some of the enemy who were seen to be quitting their support trenches. The position was captured with the loss to the company of one man killed by a shell.

The centre company (C), commanded by Captain A. L. Sutton, whose objective was the German trench covering the junction of the roads from Puresbecques and Pont Tournant, was equally successful and also escaped with few casualties. Amongst them, however, was 2nd Lieut. R. C. Stedman, who was

shot just before reaching the German trench, and died of his wounds soon afterwards. The right platoon (No. 11) of this company was temporarily checked by the hedge close in front of the German trench, but were able to use their rifles on its occupants, who were already beginning to run. When two of its more determined defenders attempted to bring a machine gun into action, Sergt. W. H. Taylor seized it by the muzzle and dragged it out of their hands through the hedge. Eventually, with the assistance of a Lewis gun, under Lce.-Cpl. J. Sparks, which came into action at the eastern end of the hedge, and of the bombing section under Lce.-Cpl. A. Green, which commenced clearing the trench from the same flank, the remainder of the platoon struggled through the hedge and established themselves on favourable ground slightly in advance of their objective.

The right company (B), under Captain W. E. Crouch, whose task it was to capture the German trenches which curved back to the bend of the River Bourre east of Pont Tournant, advanced without opposition as far as the thick hedge about 100 yards in front of those trenches. In this hedge only two gaps were discovered, and the whole company had to pass through them and re-form on the other side. This was done under the covering fire of Lewis guns rushed forward by Sergt. E. Flynn, M.M., who was killed later in the day, and Cpl. Simkins, and the first trench was occupied without much resistance. The houses, however, on the far side of the road were stoutly defended. Here the East Surrey bombers did excellent work, and many Germans were killed and fifteen captured. From one cellar came out a German company commander with his hands up, but his Adjutant following him threw a bomb. A Mills grenade exploding between them killed both; while their bugler, who tried to escape, was shot through the head. Several other Germans who used their rifles and caused a few casualties were all killed, and the company advanced across the road until the final objective was reached. Few of the German garrison of this part of their line escaped, as in retreating they came under enfilade fire from machine and Lewis guns posted south of the river by the Devons.

The captured position was consolidated at once, and during the night a company of the Devons was employed in digging a trench from its left extremity to the old British line. The work of consolidation was harassed by the enemy's artillery, which had not been severe during the fighting, but increased in violence later in the evening.

During the night the Germans organized a strong counter-attack to recover their lost trenches. At 3 a.m. they opened a heavy barrage, and their infantry was seen forming up opposite D Company. The 1st Battn. East Surrey immediately opened fire with every available weapon and an artillery barrage, in response to the S.O.S. signal, was put down quickly and accurately, the shells bursting right over the East Surrey trenches and pitching the bullets forward into No Man's Land.

Under this overwhelming fire the enemy failed to reach the British line except at one point where, under cover of a heavy mist and the smoke of the barrage, they gained a footing in their old trench where it was joined by the

new trench dug by the Devons. Here Lieut.-Colonel W. A. Gillett, 2/5th Battn. East Surrey Regt., temporarily attached to the Battalion, who was going round the trenches at the time, took charge and rendered valuable assistance in restoring the situation. Major Veitch, commanding the Devons, who had come up to inspect the work done during the night on the new trench, was killed; but the Germans were speedily driven out, leaving behind them several killed and one wounded prisoner. While this fighting was in progress, the vicinity of Battalion Headquarters was heavily shelled, and the Adjutant, Captain J. C. Druce, was wounded so severely that his valuable services were lost to the Battalion for the remainder of the War.

The total casualties on May 20th and 21st were as follows:—*Mortally wounded*: 2nd Lieut. R. C. Stedman. *Wounded*: Captain J. C. Druce, M.C.; Lieut. A. E. Dempster; 2nd Lieuts. M. A. Grace and M. J. Hogan. Other ranks:—*Killed*, 27; *wounded*, 85; *missing*, 2.

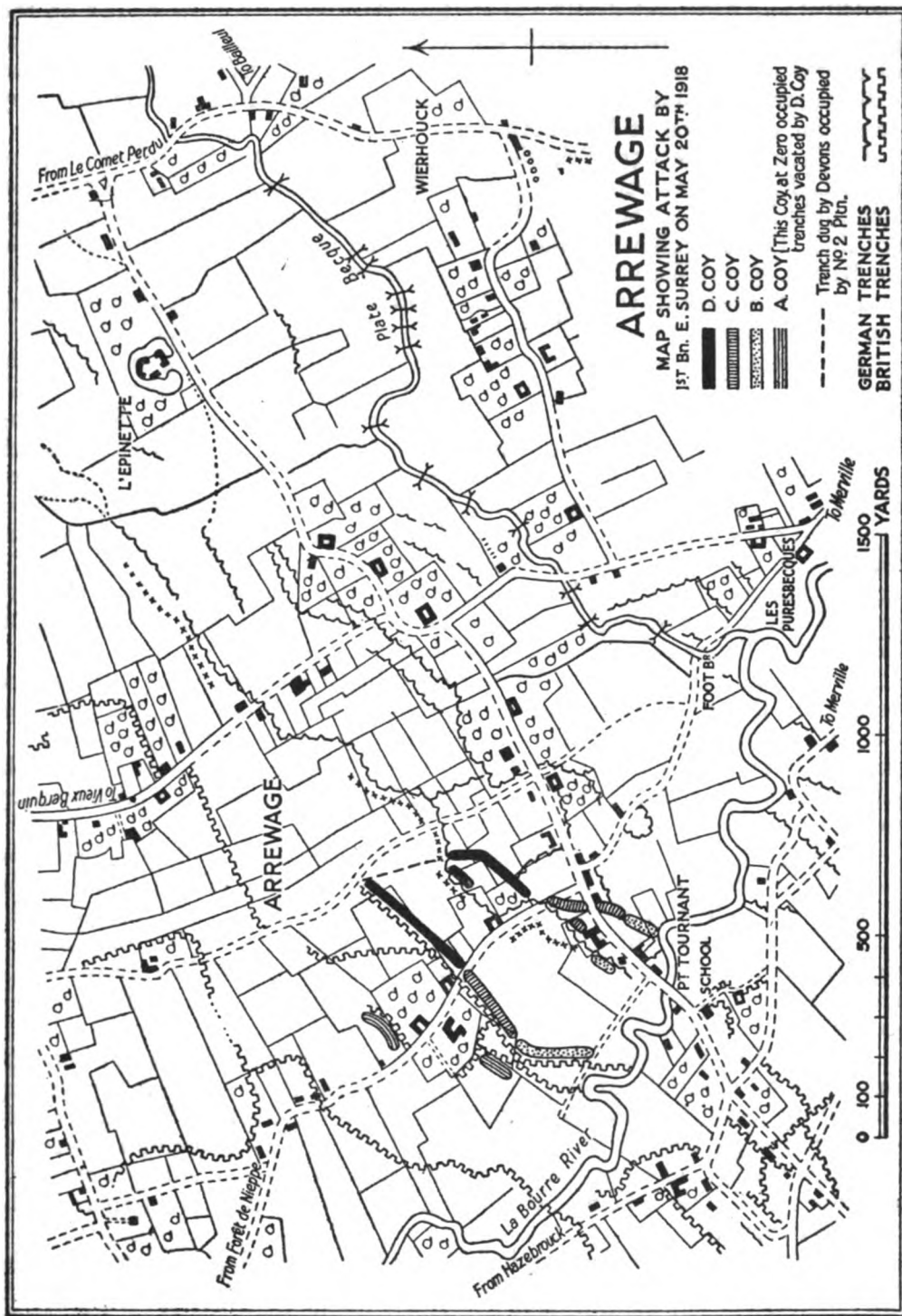
The services of the Battalion on this occasion were highly praised and well rewarded. Lieut.-Colonel Minogue, M.C., who had so long and ably commanded was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. The Military Cross was conferred on Captains W. E. Crouch and A. L. Sutton; Lieuts. G. G. C. Niven (5th Battn. attd.) and F. P. J. Glover, Intelligence Officer (4th Battn. attd.); and 2nd Lieut. B. O. Byard. The Military Medal was granted to the following N.C.O.'s and men:—Sergt. Woods; Cpls. A. Dalton, J. Lovelock and H. Perry; Lce.-Cpls. J. Rumble, A. Green, R. High, J. Sparkles and F. Weller; Ptes. J. Randall, W. Palmer, H. Spenser and A. Taylor. The Distinguished Conduct Medal was awarded to Sergt. W. H. Taylor.

The Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battn. Norfolk Regt. on the night of the 22nd May and withdrew to Villorba Camp, where Captain A. E. Cottam took over the duties of Adjutant. On May 23rd the N.C.O.'s and men killed in the action of the 20th–21st were buried in Tannay cemetery, in the presence of about 100 officers and men of the Battalion. In the evening the Battalion marched to rest billets about Pecqueur, west of the forest, where it remained until May 29th.

On the 27th, Lieut.-General Sir R. C. B. Haking, Commanding XI Corps, presented company banners to the battalions of the 95th Brigade. On the same day a draft of 56 men joined. On May 29th the Battalion marched from Pecqueur via Arcade Camp, and relieved the 14th Battn. Royal Warwick Regt. in support at Le Sart.

The Battalion remained at Le Sart until the night of June 4th, when it relieved the 1st Battn. Devon Regt. in the right sub-sector. The 5th was a very quiet day, and although the left company came in for a share of a heavy hostile barrage on the 6th, under cover of which the enemy made a raid on the 12 Battn. Gloucester Regt., only two men were wounded. Two more men were wounded on the 7th, as was Major R. A. F. Montanaro, M.C., who was hit in the foot by a machine-gun bullet while returning from the line. His duty as Second-in-Command was taken over by Captain Sutton.

On the 9th June the German artillery was very active, and 2 other ranks



were killed and 6 wounded. The next three days were very quiet, and on the night of the 12th the 95th Brigade was relieved by the 15th and the 1st Battn. East Surrey withdrew to Tannay and Thiennes. The Corps Commander visited the Battalion at Tannay on June 14th and presented scrolls for the company banners for the action of May 20th-21st.

On June 20th the 95th Brigade relieved the 13th in the left sub-sector, the 1st Battn. East Surrey being in reserve at Spresiano Camp until June 25th, on which night it relieved the D.C.L.I. and one company of the Gloucesters in the front line. On the following night the Battalion was relieved by the 14th and 15th Battns. Royal Warwick Regt. and withdrew to reserve trenches. It went forward on the night of the 27th to the Caudescure area, into its assembly positions for a coming attack, in which it was to act in support of the D.C.L.I.

The Battalion was in position by one o'clock in the morning of June 28th. The enemy's artillery was very active, and Captains C. P. Emmett and P. W. Hubbard were wounded while going into the trenches, the former officer dying of his wounds within twenty-four hours. In the action of La Becque, which commenced at 6 a.m. under a heavy barrage, the 1st Battn. East Surrey was not actively engaged, with the exception of a party of twenty-four men of D Company. This party, whilst carrying ammunition for the 95th Light Trench Mortar Battery, became involved in the fighting, in the course of which it captured a machine gun and lost 2 men killed and 11 wounded. For gallantry on this day and in the fight at Arrewage, Company Sergt.-Major H. J. Plumb was later on awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

As the D.C.L.I. advanced, A Company of the East Surrey was sent forward into the old British front line about Arrewage. The situation was fairly quiet by 8 a.m. and remained so till 4 p.m., when the British artillery put down a barrage in response to a S.O.S. call from the Division on the left of the 5th. By this time the remainder of the 1st Battn. East Surrey had joined A Company about Arrewage.

During the night of the 28th there was another S.O.S. call on the left and a heavy barrage which lasted till 11.15 p.m., but the day following was extraordinarily quiet, the artillery on both sides being inactive. On the 30th the Battalion moved forward after dark and came under the orders of the 13th Brigade, relieving the 2nd Battn. K.O.S.B. in the new front line south-east of Arrewage, which ran nearly parallel to Plate Becque at an average distance of a quarter of a mile from its north bank.

Work during the tour in the trenches was concentrated on wiring the new front until, on the night of July 3rd, the Battalion was relieved and moved by light railway through the forest to Arcade Camp. On the 6th the 95th Brigade took over the right sub-sector, the 1st Battn. East Surrey moving up into reserve at Villorba Camp. The previous occupants of this camp had suffered considerably from gas-shelling, which at this period was severe almost everywhere in the Forêt de Nieppe.

The Battalion spent five days in Villorba Camp, sending up two companies every night to work on the front line about Le Corbie, where on the 11th it

replaced the 1st Battn. Devon Regt. The defences were found to have been considerably improved since the Battalion last occupied them at the end of April, and there was now a continuous trench along the whole front.

The 95th Brigade was relieved by the 13th during the night of the 17th July, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey went back to Tannay, on the western edge of the forest, losing one man killed and one wounded during the relief. While at Tannay the 95th Brigade Aquatic Sports were held and also water polo matches; but these seasonable amusements were varied by an occasional inter-company football match.

After a week at Tannay, another Brigade relief took place, the 95th Brigade taking over the left sub-sector in which the 1st Battn. East Surrey went into support on the 23rd July, supplying working parties every night to construct strong points behind the line. During this period Lieut. C. S. Oswin and six men were wounded. During the night of the 30th the 1st Battn. East Surrey relieved the Devons in the front line about Arrewage.

CHAPTER XI

MARCH TO JULY, 1918 : THE 2ND BATTALION WITH THE SALONIKA ARMY, IN THE LINE AT DOVA TEPE NEAR LAKE DOIRAN AND ON THE KRUSHA BALKAN.

ON the Salonika front the period of five months ending with July, 1918, was not eventful so far as the 2nd Battn. East Surrey was concerned. From Orljak, on the Struma River, the Battalion moved on the 14th March to Snevce, ten miles south-east of Lake Doiran. On the 21st it relieved the 8th Battn. D.C.L.I. in the Dova Tepe sector, eight miles north-east of Lake Doiran, on the Demirhissar-Doiran railway. One of the posts taken over was the old Greek frontier fort of Dova Tepe, situated on the northern slope of the Krusha Balkan and dominated by the Beles Range, on the far side of the valley, which extended eastward to Lake Butkovo and westward to Lake Doiran.

During April the Battalion remained in the Dova Tepe sector. On the 25th, Lieut.-Colonel E. H. Nicholson, D.S.O., left the Battalion to take over command of the 3rd Battn. Royal Fusiliers. This gallant officer had commanded the 2nd Battn. East Surrey for sixteen months, and the news of his death in action in France on the 4th October, 1918, was received with great regret by all in the Battalion who had served under him. On his departure from the Battalion, Lieut.-Colonel C. C. G. Ashton assumed command.

At the end of May, Dova Tepe fort was evacuated by the Battalion and its concrete emplacements were blown up by the Royal Engineers.

The hot weather had now set in, and the British troops were reoccupying the summer outpost line on the crest of the Krusha Balkan. On the 2nd June accordingly the 2nd Battn. East Surrey vacated the Dova Tepe sector and moved ten miles south into reserve at Eresilli. On the 20th June it relieved the 3rd Battn. Royal Fusiliers in the outpost line at Sal Grec. This was one of the highest points on the Krusha Balkan. Eastward it overlooked the Struma Plain and westward Doiran Lake and town.

About this date the reorganization of infantry brigades on a three-battalion basis took effect in the 85th Brigade, which thereafter comprised the 2nd Battn. "The Buffs," the 2nd Battn. East Surrey and the 3rd Battn. Middlesex Regt., the 3rd Battn. Royal Fusiliers being transferred to the new division which was withdrawn from the Salonika Force to reinforce the British Armies in France.

During July the Bulgarians made no attempt to molest the British outpost line, and it was noticed that they were busily engaging in digging and wiring in their positions. The British troops were thus left free to carry on with their own work on defences and training. Lack of reinforcements and sickness had, however, considerably decreased the strength of units, in spite of the fact that all possible measures were taken to preserve the health of the troops, such as the

provision of pith helmets for wear during the day and mosquito nets for the men to sleep under. The spirit of the men continued to be excellent, although many of them had spent three summers on this fever-ridden front. Their time of waiting, however, was approaching its close, as at the end of July the Allied Commander-in-Chief issued instructions to prepare for a general offensive which was timed to take place early in September.

CHAPTER XII

MARCH TO JULY, 1918: THE 8TH BATTALION IN THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE IN PICARDY; ON THE RIGHT OF THE FIFTH ARMY IN THE BATTLE OF ST. QUENTIN; RELIEVED BY THE FRENCH AND TRANSFERRED TO THE AMIENS AREA IN TIME FOR THE BATTLE OF THE AVRE; REORGANIZATION AFTER ITS HEAVY LOSSES; IN THE LINE NEAR ALBERT.

IN the middle of March, 1918, the 8th Battn. East Surrey was in camp at La Haute Tombelle, a wood near Jussy, in the bend of the River Oise, some ten miles south of St. Quentin, awaiting the commencement of the expected German offensive (see map opposite page 126). The 18th Division was on the left of the 58th, which was the right division of the Fifth Army at its junction with the French.

At length, at 4.30 a.m. on the 21st March, the enemy's artillery fire, which had been increasing during the night, reached its maximum intensity. At this moment the 18th Division, less the 54th Brigade in Corps Reserve, was holding a front of some 9000 yards opposite the enemy positions from La Fère to Moy. To the 53rd Brigade was allotted the left sector of this front, and two battalions of the 55th Brigade held the right sector, the 8th Battn. East Surrey being at the time in Divisional Reserve.

Although few German shells came west of the Crozat Canal, which connects La Fère with St. Quentin, the whole countryside to the east of it was being drenched with gas and shattered by high explosives. In places the hostile fronts were separated by the marshes of the Oise, but these, owing to the extraordinarily rainless springtime, were rapidly drying up. The enemy made no frontal attack on the 55th Brigade, but, favoured by a thick white mist, he crossed the River Oise at La Fère and also near Moy, some six miles north of La Fère, and eventually came on the position held by the 7th Battn. "The Buffs" from both flanks.

Soon after noon on the 21st March the Battalion, in compliance with verbal orders from Divisional Headquarters, moved across the Crozat Canal to the western outskirts of Remigny, and the Commanding Officer went on to report to the headquarters of the 53rd Brigade at Ly-Fontaine. This brigade had fought gallantly since the early hours of the morning, but its left flank was now completely in the air. The 8th Battn. East Surrey was therefore ordered to occupy the Ly-Fontaine-Gibercourt switch line, a partially dug but well-wired defensive position running north-west near Ly-Fontaine. Parties of the enemy were already close to the switch line south-east of this village, and the 53rd Brigade Headquarters was almost surrounded. Further to the right, where the switch joined the forward defences at Fort Vendeuil close to the River Oise, repeated enemy attacks had been beaten off by the 8th Battn. Royal Sussex Pioneers and the Headquarter details of "The Buffs." There was, however, a wide gap between the left of these troops and the garrison of Ly-Fontaine, which

D Company of the 8th Battn. East Surrey, under Lieut. Whyntie, was sent forward to fill. A and C Companies manned the switch line south-west of Ly-Fontaine, while B Company remained in reserve just north of Remigny.

At 3.30 p.m. hostile cavalry patrols were observed to be working round in rear of the left flank of the 53rd Brigade from the direction of Montescourt, and two platoons of B Company were sent to make good the situation on that flank. No further developments, however, took place, and the hostile cavalry eventually withdrew. At dusk the 18th Division was still holding its "battle-zone" intact; but, owing to the general situation, the Fifth Army Commander decided to withdraw the III Corps, which included the 18th Division, behind the Crozat Canal to a strong position, where it was hoped the enemy's advance would be effectually barred.

At 9.30 p.m. orders were received accordingly that the 8th Battn. East Surrey would cover the withdrawal of the 53rd Brigade, whose move was timed for 10.30 p.m. The Battalion itself was to remain about Remigny till midnight, when it was also to withdraw to the west of the canal. These movements were successfully carried out, and the 8th Battn. East Surrey arrived at Frières-Faillouel at 3 a.m. on the 22nd March.

By this time a thick ground mist, such as had enveloped the whole countryside up to 1 p.m. on the previous day, had again spread over the battlefield. The village afforded but little shelter, and sleep in the open was impossible. Breakfasts, however, were soon arranged and were barely finished when the Battalion was ordered to send forward two companies to the railway line at and south of Mennessis in support of the 4th Hussars.

On the immediate front of the Battalion the 22nd March was a fairly quiet day, although on both flanks the enemy continued to advance. During the afternoon, therefore, a redistribution of troops was made and the 8th Battn. East Surrey was restored to the 55th Brigade, although this information did not reach its Commanding Officer till the 24th. The Battalion thus held the left of the 55th Brigade's new front, while the 7th Battn. "Queen's" was to take the right, in relief of the 12th Entrenching Battalion. This relief was temporarily postponed to enable the outgoing unit to complete a minor operation it had arranged. Meanwhile the 8th Battn. East Surrey, especially B and C Companies at Mennessis, had sustained heavy casualties from the enemy's shelling, and this increased in intensity during the night, when A Company moved up to reinforce B and C.

At 7 a.m. on the 23rd March, after a terrific artillery and machine-gun preparation, the enemy advanced in mass formation. Owing to a shortage of ammunition, French troops on the right of the 55th Brigade were driven in, while the enemy was threatening also the left flank of the Battalion. The situation on the right was temporarily restored by a magnificent counter-attack of the "Queen's" and some French companies led by Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Bushell, V.C., of the "Queen's." To clear up the situation on the left, 2nd Lieut. G. E. Evans with a small patrol was sent off in a northerly direction in an endeavour to get into touch with other troops on that flank. After a most

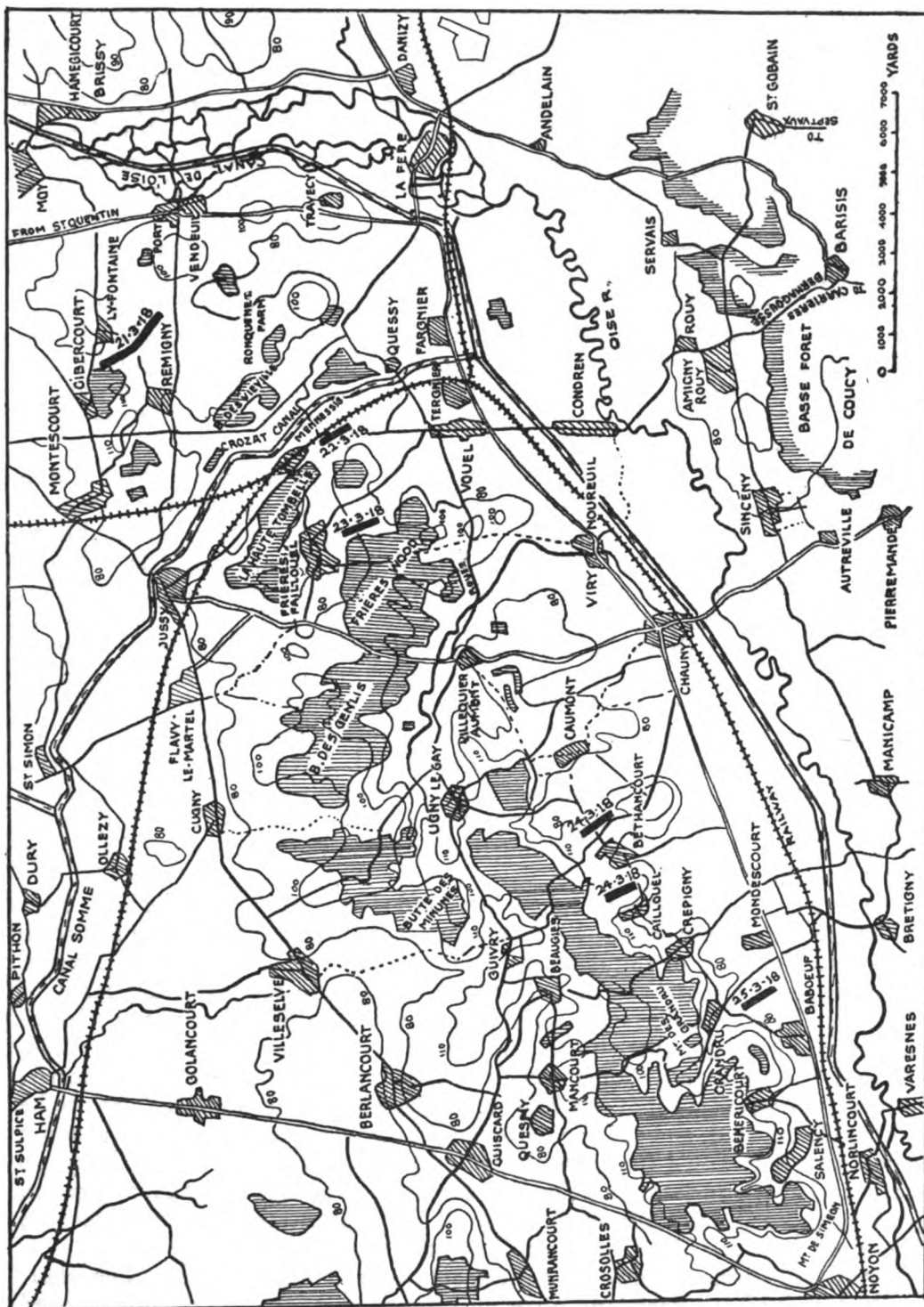
thorough and valuable reconnaissance he returned and reported that British cavalry were holding the northern end of Haute Tombelle Wood more than a mile away. This gap it was impossible to fill, and by 2 p.m. the enemy had poured through and had entirely enveloped the left flank of the Battalion. Stubbornly contesting every yard, it was forced back in a south-westerly direction. For several hours a most gallant resistance on the Faillouel-Viry Noreuil road stayed the enemy's advance. Soon after 5 p.m., however, he had again worked round the exposed left flank of D Company, and the Battalion then withdrew to the western edge of Frières Wood.

Meanwhile French reinforcements on the right had launched an unsuccessful counter-attack, and the situation on that flank became most obscure. As the enemy continued to advance, almost unchecked, upon the left, at 7.30 p.m. Lieut.-Colonel Irwin withdrew the Battalion to an excellent position just west of Villequier-Aumont, astride the Ugny Le Gay road, where a company of Pioneers were already entrenching themselves. This position he determined to hold until some definite instructions should be received. During the course of the evening, however, masses of French troops arrived from the direction of Ugny and began to dig in just in rear of the Battalion. At 9 p.m., therefore, when the French were fully established, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin withdrew the Battalion and, with D Company as rearguard, moved off westwards towards Ugny. Here instructions were received to rejoin the Brigade which was concentrating at Béthancourt, two miles south of Ugny. The transport was already bivouacked there, and a most welcome hot meal awaited the men, who soon lay down in the open for their first night's rest since the night of the 19th/20th.

Throughout the 23rd March the Battalion had fought most gallantly against masses of troops whose concentrated machine-gun fire had been more intense than any yet experienced, and had only given ground at tremendous cost both to itself and to the enemy. Among the killed were such gallant officers as Captain V. G. F. Shrapnel, who had commanded A Company with conspicuous ability and gallantry since the preceding October; Captains E. F. Wentzel and M. R. Carter; Lieuts. E. M. Dove, M.C., and M. B. Haworth (5th Battn. attd.); 2nd Lieut. A. R. Canfor. Six others, including Lieuts. T. J. Gripper and G. H. Sargent, had also become casualties; while about 60 other ranks had been killed.

In the early hours of the 24th March, the general situation being very obscure, the G.O.C. 55th Brigade ordered all three battalions to take up an outpost line east of Béthancourt, astride the road to Caumont, the 8th Battn. East Surrey being the central battalion, with A and D Companies as outpost companies, B and C remaining in reserve. Following upon a Divisional conference later in the morning, "The Buffs" and the "Queen's" were withdrawn to new positions on the forward slope of the Caillouel Spur, where companies of Pioneers were already busily engaged in preparing a new line.

Having covered this withdrawal, the 8th Battn. East Surrey fell back also and took over the left battalion frontage from "The Buffs," who were placed in Brigade Support on the Crépigny Spur, some 1200 yards further back. B and D Companies held the East Surrey's front line, some 700 yards in length, and



THE 8TH BATTALION IN THE BATTLE OF ST. QUENTIN, MARCH, 1918. SUCCESSIVE POSITIONS OF THE BATTALION ARE SHOWN THUS —

128 THE LEFT FLANK OF 18TH DIVN. REPEATEDLY TURNED

before evening a continuous, well-traversed and well-dug trench had been finished, marking the Battalion frontage, together with a series of Lewis-gun and rifle posts, to be occupied at night, about 50 yards in front of it. Meanwhile C Company had dug two sections of support trenches, one 150 yards in length, the other about 100; and A Company, having taken up its position in a sunken road, had carried pickets to the front line, for it was hoped to wire the whole front that night.

This was a wonderful day's work. In spite of fatigue, the men had worked with the utmost keenness and energy, and a splendid defensive position had been made. Similar work had been done all along the front of the 18th Division, and everyone hoped that here at last a definite stand might be made, since it was realized that frontal attacks on the position could be withstood for an indefinite period, and, as already recorded, French troops were now pushing forward to assist the III Corps, which was placed this day under the command of the Third French Army.

In the evening a hot meal was prepared on the cookers which had been brought up from Grandru, where the transport had been temporarily stationed. There during the day the Transport Officer, 2nd Lieut. W. H. Cobb, had done good work in organizing the Brigade ammunition supply, although he had been wounded and badly shaken during a bombardment of the village. 2nd Lieut. F. A. Staley had also been wounded.

Early on the 25th orders for a further retirement were received. Away to the north, beyond the thickly wooded ridge which ran east and west through the Divisional front, the enemy, during the preceding evening, had attacked a newly arrived French division and had captured Beaugies, two miles north-west of Caillouel. Once more the left flank of the 18th Division had been turned. Throughout the night troops on that flank had heard the rumble of wheels and the march of infantry as the enemy hastened forward, and at dawn they could see the enemy's heavy artillery coming into action in the fields north of the ridge and almost in their rear.

The withdrawal to the Crépigny Spur and thence to the Mondescourt Spur was hardly completed when the enemy brought a terrific machine-gun fire to bear on the left rear of the Battalion from the direction of Grandru. Covered by Lewis-gun sections, who by most accurate fire were able to silence many of the enemy guns, the Battalion again withdrew to the Behericourt Spur (three miles east of Noyon), where by 10 a.m. a position had been taken up in conjunction with the "Queen's," some French and other miscellaneous troops. Shortly, however, the withdrawal of the Brigade on the left again caused that flank to be completely exposed, and the enemy advanced across the open in mass formation against the Battalion's front. Major J. Wightman, with 2nd Lieut. Whyntie and some Lewis-gun teams, hurried forward and took up some most advantageous, but very exposed, positions on the flank. Their concentrated fire did enormous execution, and for a time the enemy hesitated to advance.

About one o'clock, however, he took courage and again came on. The whole line had now to fall back, and a steady retirement began. Companies retired

alternately without excitement or hurry; the whole operation closely resembled a field day, except for casualties, and reflected the greatest credit on all ranks, and more particularly on the junior officers. Excellent covering fire considerably reduced the enemy fire and materially aided each successive retirement. During this phase 2nd Lieut. G. E. Evans fell, shot through the head. This was a heavy loss to the Battalion, for throughout the four days' fighting he had proved himself to be a most capable and gallant officer.

When at length the enemy's advance was checked by troops already in position along the high ground west of Baboeuf, the Battalion was ordered to remain in close support of the "Queen's," who were temporarily holding a position a quarter of a mile west of Baboeuf. At 4.30 p.m. the Battalion received orders to rendezvous on the Noyon-Chauny road just south-east of Salency, whence at 7.30 p.m. it crossed the River Oise to bivouac at Varesnes.

The three following days, 26th to 28th March, were passed under most trying conditions, but in comparative quiet, as the troops of the III Corps were being relieved gradually by French troops and sent north to rejoin the Fifth Army. At 2 a.m. on the 26th, after only two hours' sleep, the Battalion moved off southwards from Varesnes to the Bois De La Montagne, near Caisnes. Here a hot breakfast was served at 8 a.m. The day was warm and some sleep was obtained, but in the afternoon the march was continued to Nampcel. Here the night had again to be passed in the open. It was far too cold for sleep, and most men walked up and down all night, waiting for the dawn. In the early morning the Battalion was ordered to Audignicourt, where for twenty-four hours a large limestone cavern afforded protection from the weather at a minimum of comfort.

Since dawn of the 21st, almost without a break, the Battalion had been fiercely engaged; casualties had amounted to 15 officers (7 of whom had been killed and 2 were missing) and 272 other ranks (of whom 70 were found afterwards to have been killed); but, although forced back by weight of numbers and "the general situation," the Battalion had played its part with determination and memorable gallantry. From Commanding Officer to youngest private not one had failed to meet the greatest demands on his courage, strength and staying power. Even so it would be impossible to pass over without further comment the great services of Major J. Wightman. Throughout the action, and more particularly during the heavy fighting of the 25th, this officer had displayed the utmost gallantry and devotion to duty, encouraging and inspiring all ranks by his confidence and contempt for danger.

At 1.45 a.m. on the 29th March the Battalion left Audignicourt to continue their journey in motor-buses. By some misunderstanding the buses had not arrived at the rendezvous, and for over four hours the Brigade awaited them in the pouring rain on a muddy road across a wind-swept moor. At length they arrived, French motor lorries with capable but daring drivers, and then for twenty-four hours the soaked and tired 55th Brigade was bumped and shaken along the road to Attichy, thence along the Aisne Valley to Compiègne, and thence through Clermont and St. Just until the column at length arrived at Boves, a small village some three miles south-east of Amiens. Here the troops

left the buses and marched three miles east to Gentelles, where good billets soon induced sound sleep and, later, gave an opportunity for "cleaning up." This was the morning of the 30th March.

At this juncture the survivors of the Battalion "details" rejoined. When the attack of 21st March began, some twenty-five to thirty other ranks, together with three officers, were at Rouez Camp, south of Frières Wood. They comprised the instructional staff, reserve signallers and runners, and a small class of junior N.C.O.'s—in short, many of the Battalion's specialists. Late in the afternoon of the 21st these details were formed into a "company" under the command of 2nd Lieut. F. A. Dawson, with 2nd Lieut. H. T. Smith as subaltern; while Captain M. R. Carter was placed in charge of both the East Surrey and "Buffs" contingents. This small force was sent forward to occupy a line of very scattered posts near the Butte De Vouel, five miles west of La Fère and behind the 58th Divisional front.

For twenty-four hours little happened, but during the late afternoon of the 22nd small parties of infantry began to come back with reports that the enemy were advancing in great force. Many of these stragglers were collected by Captain Carter and used to reinforce his line. About 7 p.m. heavy rifle fire was heard on the left of the "company" front, some considerable distance away, and 2nd Lieut. Dawson proceeded towards the left post, which was occupied by 2nd Lieut. Smith. When still some distance from the post his party came under heavy machine-gun fire. Some dismounted cavalry had meanwhile come up and, by a small patrol, they ascertained that the enemy had captured and were holding strongly this left post. The night, however, passed quietly; but as dawn came small parties of the enemy could be seen passing across the front. With a patrol of fifteen men Captain Carter hurried forward and succeeded in capturing one such enemy party, consisting of 1 officer and 18 men, with 2 machine guns. Later he again attempted a similar patrol, but coming suddenly under heavy fire the whole party became casualties, and, in spite of several gallant efforts to bring them in, they had eventually to be left in the enemy's hands. It transpired later that Captain Carter had been killed.

Meanwhile French troops began to take over this sector of the battlefield. For a time 2nd Lieut. Dawson, with a small party of his men, remained with a French battalion. When his party had become casualties he proceeded towards Rouez, eventually rejoining the Battalion at Béthancourt. The extreme right sections of his command had, on the morning of the 23rd, been absorbed into a unit of the 58th Division, with whom they remained until the 30th March, when they rejoined their Battalion at Gentelles.

That night the Battalion, now only 400 strong, was ordered to relieve the 34th Brigade Australian Infantry (with miscellaneous attached units representing six divisions, remnants of "Carey's Force"), the relief to be completed by dawn. A preliminary reconnaissance by Lieut.-Colonel Irwin showed that the frontage to be taken over was one of approximately 1500 yards. The front line consisted of a series of hastily dug rifle pits facing south-east, about one mile west of Marcelcave, and represented the gain in a local counter-attack made by the

Australians during the previous afternoon. Moving off at midnight, the Battalion advanced via Cachy, and took over its new positions with the 7th "Queen's" on the left and 10th Battn. Essex Regt. (53rd Brigade) on the right.

For three days the Battalion worked hard on its sector, and at length a continuous front-line system was completed. This was held by A, B and C Companies, each of which, however, had one platoon entrenched in positions of support about 150 yards in rear. D Company had also completed a valuable "second" line some 500 yards further back, while, with Royal Engineers' assistance, some efforts had been made to build shelters at Battalion Headquarters. Throughout this period the weather was cold and wet, and the enemy's activity gradually increased.

On the night of the 3rd April the 7th Battn. "The Buffs," who had relieved the "Queen's" on the Battalion's left, captured two prisoners belonging to a "Storm Division." These disclosed plans for a further enemy attack on the following morning. At 5 a.m. on the 4th April a heavy barrage came down upon the whole sector, gas and smoke mingling with high explosive and shrapnel. This continued till 5.30 a.m., when it lifted for a further half-hour on to the batteries and positions in the rear. Then once again it fell upon the front; but the Battalion suffered remarkably few casualties, the barrage line being about thirty yards short of the trenches. At length, at 6.30 a.m., in pouring rain, the ground waterlogged and now churned into mud, the enemy infantry advanced to the attack. They seemed, however, not to make a frontal attack upon the Battalion's trenches, but to drift across to the left to assault "The Buffs" sector. There being no signal communication with the front line, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin established a line of runners between companies and Battalion Headquarters. Information, however, came in slowly. Shortly after 7 a.m., therefore, 2nd Lieut. B. G. Scrase was sent forward to patrol towards the left flank of the Battalion. He succeeded in reaching the support platoon of the left company and sent back the welcome message "Line intact." At the same time similar messages came in from the other front-line companies, who also reported that they had sustained few casualties. The runners, however, had suffered badly, only one remaining unwounded. Yet in every case messages sent were received, Lce.-Cpl. W. Bassett, of C Company, delivering his message in spite of having been four times hit during his "carry." For this gallant service he was subsequently awarded a bar to the Military Medal which he had earned at Mennessis. By 9 a.m. a general withdrawal on the left had taken place, and two platoons of D Company were sent up under 2nd Lieut. Scrase to cover the exposed left flank of the Battalion. Later, troops on the left again worked their way forward and re-established their old front. Heavy rain continued to fall; the trenches became mere mud holes, and, in spite of the persistent efforts of all ranks, rifles and Lewis guns became clogged and unworkable. Desperate attempts were made to keep the guns in action; large supplies of flannel were sent for, and one man was seen to sacrifice his shirt to keep his Lewis gun ready for the expected renewal of the enemy's attack.

At 4 p.m., reinforced by newly arrived troops, the enemy again advanced.

This time the attack was particularly heavy upon the whole Brigade front, and a general withdrawal began. A great effort was made to hold the "reserve platoon" line, but this, too, had to be abandoned. Rifles and Lewis guns were choked and useless; men attempted to clean them as they retired and the withdrawal continued. All but four of the officers and most of the N.C.O.'s had fallen, and it was therefore extremely difficult to rally the men; but at length, by a determined and gallant effort, the Commanding Officer and Major Wightman formed up the remnants of the Battalion on a line about 200 yards west of the Villers-Bretonneux-Hangard road, where the 7th Battn. "Queen's" were already in position on the left. Miscellaneous troops of the 53rd Brigade now hastened up on the right, and thus a thin, but determined, line was established. Having sent Major Wightman to report the situation to the Brigade Commander, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin proceeded to organize the Battalion into two "companies" under 2nd Lieuts. F. A. Dawson and A. E. Spooner; and the line itself was organized for further resistance. The situation thus remained until 1 a.m. on the 5th April, when the sector was taken over by the "Queen's," and the 8th Battn. East Surrey was sent back to Gentelles and thence to Boves to reorganize.

Meanwhile, Major J. Wightman, M.C., had found the Brigade Commander, but while making his report he was shot by a sniper and fell mortally wounded. His runner, Pte. F. Newman, together with three men of the "Queen's" (of whom two were killed and the other wounded), made very gallant efforts to bring him into safety, ultimately succeeding as soon as dusk fell. This very gallant officer died of his wounds at Picquigny on the 9th April. His loss was a heavy blow which was felt by every officer, N.C.O. and man in the Battalion. Two months after his death the award of the D.S.O. to Major Wightman appeared in the list of "Birthday Honours."

The remnant of the Battalion was withdrawn to Boves early on the 5th April, and rifles and equipment were cleaned and fresh ammunition issued. At 1 p.m., however, the Battalion was ordered forward again to Gentelles Wood, where further instructions were received to man that night two strong points near the Bois de Hangard, which the enemy had captured on the previous day. At 7 p.m., accordingly, the Battalion moved to its new position, coming temporarily under the command of the 5th Australian Infantry Brigade.

The enemy's attacks of the 4th and 5th April marked the close of the great German offensive so far as the Somme battle-front was concerned, and thenceforward local conditions quickly became those of normal trench warfare. Consequently the 6th of April passed in comparative quiet. That evening the Battalion was relieved by the "Queen's" and returned to Boves, where it was reorganized into four companies, each thirty strong.

On the 8th April a composite Battalion was formed, under Lieut.-Colonel A. L. Ransome, of the 7th Battn. "The Buffs," consisting of two companies of "Buffs," one company Royal Berkshires, and one company 8th Battn. East Surrey. The previously organized "companies" of the Battalion, therefore, became platoons, and Captain P. G. Heath took command, with 2nd Lieuts.

THE 8TH BATTALION RE-CONSTITUTED NEAR DOULLENS 133

A. E. Spooner and A. W. Braid as subalterns, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin being kept back as reserve Battalion Commander. On the following day further officer reinforcements arrived, and Captain J. A. Halford relieved Captain Heath as the company commander.

Two further days were spent at Boves, during which two platoons of the 8th Battn. East Surrey company did a twenty-four hour tour of duty in a strong point south-west of Cachy; but at midday on the 12th April orders were received for the Battalion, as such, to march that evening to rest at Soues, twelve miles north-west of Amiens, as the 18th Division was being withdrawn from the line. During that night the Battalion marched twenty-one miles with full packs, singing most of the way, and on the 13th April reached Soues, where good billets were provided. On the following day the four companies were again formed in anticipation of the arrival of drafts.

The Battalion now numbered but 8 officers and 161 other ranks. Since the 30th March it had sustained a loss of 13 officers and 243 other ranks, including sick. The officer casualties included the following:—

Killed or died of wounds : Major J. Wightman, D.S.O., M.C.; Captains M. R. Carter and A. L. Hall; 2nd Lieuts. S. R. Fairbank and W. O. E. Lester.

Wounded : Captain C. J. Whyntie; Lieuts. A. R. Tod and A. E. Williams; 2nd Lieuts. R. Chart and B. G. Scrase.

Missing : Captain Nicolls.

The period 13th to 23rd April passed pleasantly at Soues. Several large drafts arrived, including one which consisted entirely of “young soldiers” from one of the recently formed Training Battalions. There were also many officer reinforcements. Training progressed with the greatest keenness, and the presence of several expert instructors from the Fourth Army School greatly facilitated the task of preparing the Battalion for such new work as lay before it. The “specialists,” however, who had become casualties in the early stages of the March fighting, were sadly missed. They had included men whose experience in training squads in musketry, Lewis-gun work and signalling was unsurpassed.

Meanwhile the following awards were made to officers and other ranks of the Battalion by the Field Marshal, Commanding-in-Chief, for gallantry in action on various occasions during the periods 21st–26th March and 30th March–6th April:—Captain T. W. Jackson (R.A.M.C.), Lieut. A. R. Tod, 2nd Lieuts. W. H. Cobb and H. H. Pither received the Military Cross; Sergt. H. Griffen, M.M., Cpl. J. G. Innes and Lce.-Cpl. W. C. Glazebrook received the Distinguished Conduct Medal; Lce.-Cpl. W. Bassett and Pte. V. Kenward received the Military Medal and Bar; Lce.-Cpl. H. A. Barratt and Pte. P. Cage received a Bar to their Military Medal; and Sergt. F. Cullen, Lce.-Cpl. C. J. Baker and Ptes. F. Chitty, L. Cogan, G. Hutt, F. W. Kempen, C. Kirby, W. Mack, F. Newman and F. J. Shirley received the Military Medal.

On 24th April the 18th Division again moved up to the line. The enemy had attacked about Villers-Bretonneux early that morning; and this attack was thought at the time to be the prelude to further determined efforts to capture

Amiens. The situation was so urgent that the 55th Brigade was met on its march by a "bus column" and carried to its destination, St. Fuscien, three miles south of Amiens, arriving there at 3 p.m. Owing to the great gallantry of the troops already in the battle zone, the 55th Brigade was not called upon to operate as a complete counter-attack brigade, although the 7th Battn. "Queen's" took part in an assault on the enemy positions at Hangard Wood on the 26th. Meanwhile the 8th Battn. East Surrey spent several days in a pleasant camp near St. Fuscien.

On the 28th April the Battalion marched with the 55th Brigade to Bavelincourt, whence on the night of 30th April-1st May it moved into the line between Dernancourt and Albert, in relief of the 25th Battn. Australian Infantry. During the relief there were several casualties in No. 1 platoon through the shelling of the Albert-Amiens road. Throughout this tour of duty the artillery activity on both sides gradually increased, and the front line was accurately registered by the enemy. Relief came on the night of the 8th, and several days were then spent in Brigade Support and devoted to further training. On the 13th the Battalion again went into the line, the new tour of duty being marked by several most successful patrols. One of these, consisting of 2nd Lieut. C. A. Hopper and four men, is particularly noteworthy. On the night of 17th/18th this patrol made a close inspection of long stretches of the enemy's line. Three unoccupied posts were noted and a large enemy working party located. But movement in the wheat was particularly difficult, and the patrol was eventually heavily fired upon at close range. One man was killed and 2nd Lieut. Hopper and two men wounded.

Meanwhile the Brigade Commander, Brigadier-General E. A. Wood, had informed the Commanding Officer of an impending operation on the right, in which two brigades of Australians were to attack south of the Ancre, and the 54th Brigade (on the Battalion's immediate right) on the north of the river. In conjunction with this operation he wished the 8th Battn. East Surrey to make a "one-company" raid, and Lieut.-Colonel Irwin was to submit his scheme to Brigade Headquarters by noon on the following day (18th May). That afternoon, however, instructions arrived to carry out the proposed scheme the next morning, Whit-Sunday, zero hour being fixed at 2 a.m. A conference was hastily convened at which representatives of the C.R.A., the Machine-gun Battalion and the Trench Mortar Battery were present, and by 6 p.m. details had been arranged. A Company (Captain N. A. Pease) having been already warned, preliminary instructions were now issued. The Commanding Officer, accompanied by Lieut. C. H. Cruttwell and four orderlies, then hastened forward to complete arrangements. At 9.30 p.m. on the 18th this party proceeded into No Man's Land to lay forming-up tapes. It was a brilliant moonlight night, and an enemy working party could be heard not far distant. Covered by a small force, the Commanding Officer had completed his task by 11 p.m. and then withdrew, leaving the four orderlies in front to prevent hostile patrols discovering the tapes.

At 12.45 a.m. on the 19th May, Captain Pease arrived with his company, and the troops were led out by sections by the Commanding Officer and Lieut. Cruttwell. Short lengths of tape, at right angles to the forming-up tapes, had

been laid forward to enable men to get off in the correct direction; and brilliant stars on the alignment were also pointed out to each section. Within an hour the company was in position, and a few minutes later the enemy commenced some desultory shelling. At 2 a.m., under a good barrage, the troops went forward. The night was now darker, for the moon had gone; but the line moved almost as if on parade, although a few casualties were sustained from our own barrage by troops on one flank moving too quickly. After passing a low double belt of apron wire, the company reached the enemy trench. It was some 3 feet 6 inches deep and almost continuous, although there must have been gaps, for some sections advanced as far as the road without crossing a trench. A few small shelters were discovered, each of which contained parties of three to eight men. These were effectively dealt with; and a party of twelve, who took to flight, were shot down. In No Man's Land two Lewis-gun sections had stumbled upon a machine-gun post, and having shot two of the crew, sent back the gun and one prisoner.

The enemy had apparently been taken completely by surprise, for there were no sentries; equipment and rifles were lying unguarded on the parapet, and the garrison were sheltering in the small dugouts. At 2.20 a.m. two Green lights—the prearranged signal for withdrawal—were sent up by Lieut. P. R. Ackerley, and the company began to retire. Five minutes later our barrage dropped and remained for some considerable time on the enemy front line. Meanwhile all the wounded were brought in, the stretcher-bearers working splendidly. Special mention must be made of the work of two of them, Ptes. E. Cavill and W. Morris. Having already made several trips with wounded, just as dawn was breaking these men heard that a fellow stretcher-bearer was lying wounded near the enemy's wire. In spite of the rapidly increasing daylight and a steady enemy fire, they hastened forward, only to find their comrade dead. They then proceeded to crawl along the wire, and eventually found another wounded man whom they brought in. Their gallantry earned for them the award of the Military Medal.

A careful examination of those who took part in the raid revealed the fact that twenty-nine of the enemy had been killed, a far larger number were wounded, and there were three prisoners. But our own casualties had also been somewhat heavy. Captain Pease and 2nd Lieut. A. W. Braid were both wounded; 3 other ranks had been killed and 26 wounded. A congratulatory wire was received during the day from the 2nd Australian Division, who thanked the Battalion "for a most successful raid at such short notice," for which they were most grateful.

The success of the raid was in great measure due to Captain Pease, who, in spite of the very short time at his disposal, had made excellent preliminary arrangements and had managed to give every man a good idea of what he was expected to do. Moreover, although severely wounded during the advance, he managed to reach the enemy trench, where he supervised its clearance and eventually the withdrawal of his company. He well earned the bar to his Military Cross which was awarded him. This raid did much to increase the *morale* of the Battalion, for the recently joined young soldiers, of which A Com-

pany was largely composed, had now had an opportunity of proving their superiority to the enemy. Apart from the awards already mentioned, the following N.C.O.'s and men received the Military Medal:—Cpl. S. Rhodes; Lce.-Cpl. E. J. Kevan; Ptes. H. Bramwell, P. Friday, P. G. Johnson and G. Minart; while Lce.-Sergt. W. Lamb subsequently received the Roumanian Croix de Virtute.

Two nights later the Battalion was relieved by the 10th Battn. Essex Regt. and passed into Divisional Reserve, a further move taking place on the 24th May to the Warloy sector of the Baisieux system, some five miles west of Albert. Here the Battalion remained for a week, working under R.E. supervision on this system, which represented the "Army line" of defence. A further reinforcement of nine officers was received, and Major G. E. Huth was temporarily attached for duty as Second-in-Command.

On the night of 31st May the 55th Brigade again moved up into the line. Two companies of the 8th Battn. East Surrey were detailed for Melbourne Trench, a "line of Resistance" about 700 yards in rear of the front line; while the remainder of the Battalion was further back at Hénencourt Wood. For three weeks the Battalion occupied various positions in reserve, and the improvement of both forward and rear defences necessitated the provision of working parties by day and night. Australia Street, Melbourne, Jakes and Carson Trenches, and Ham Redoubt, were names that became inextricably mixed with tunnelled dug-outs, new wire and machine-gun and Lewis-gun posts.

On the night of 20th June the Battalion moved into the front line opposite Albert, taking over a sector just north of the Millencourt-Albert road. B and D Companies were in front in "Swan" and "Carey," with A and C in support of "Melbourne." The work was similar to that of the past three weeks: by day and night working parties improved the trenches, strengthened the wire and built new shelters. During this tour of duty Captain W. H. Baddeley, M.C., joined the Battalion for duty as Second-in-Command. This officer had previously commanded a company of the 8th Battn. Royal Sussex Pioneers, which had acted in close co-operation with the Battalion on several occasions during the March offensive.

On the 26th June the 55th Brigade went back into Divisional Reserve, and the 8th Battn. East Surrey left the trenches for a pleasant camp behind Hénencourt, where a programme of training was organized. Meanwhile, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin had assumed temporary command of the 55th Brigade, and Major Baddeley therefore took over the command of the Battalion.

The List of Birthday Honours was now received in which, in addition to awards already recorded above, Hon. Lieut. and Quartermaster A. H. Davis, M.C., and Regtl. Sergt.-Major C. Brennan were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and Pte. G. Minart the Distinguished Conduct Medal, while (the late) Captain A. L. Hall was "mentioned in despatches."

On the evening of 2nd July, as the 55th Brigade was returning to the line, the 8th Battn. East Surrey prepared to relieve the 2nd Battn. Bedford Regt. in the front line, south of the Bouzincourt-Albert road, a difficult sector known as

Hairpin Trench. An advance party was already in the trenches, and the Battalion itself was moving linewards, when the S.O.S. signal went up along the front and the enemy attacked. The relief, therefore, was temporarily cancelled; but on the following morning A and D Companies were sent forward to support the 2nd Battn. Bedford Regt. Battalion Headquarters, with B and C Companies, remained at Hénencourt, and, in conjunction with the 7th Battn. "The Buffs," commenced intensive training for a counter-attack on the positions recaptured by the enemy. This plan of action was eventually cancelled; and on the following evening the Battalion completed the relief.

After a short tour of duty in the line and a further period in reserve, the Battalion was replaced by a unit of the relieving Division (47th), and at 3.30 a.m. on the 13th July arrived at Warloy, there to "embus" several hours later for a "rest" area. Late in the afternoon the Battalion reached Bougainville, some fourteen miles west of Amiens, and was allotted billets in that pleasant and commodious village. Here Lieut.-Colonel Irwin reassumed command of the Battalion. It was understood that at least a fortnight was to be spent in this delightful spot, and programmes of training for the mornings, of sports for the afternoons, and of entertainments for the evenings, were speedily arranged. Special attention was paid to the training of troops in open warfare, and some instructive field practices were organized. Battalion and Brigade football competitions proved most interesting and exciting; a Divisional Race Meeting attracted a vast concourse both of competitors and onlookers, including the Commander-in-Chief and two Army Commanders; while the large lake in the grounds of Oissy Château was most attractive on some sweltering afternoons.

When at the end of July the 18th Division once again moved forward, every officer and man was in splendid form and ready for any task that might be placed upon him. No one dreamed that, within ten days of leaving the Oissy area, the 55th Brigade would be taking part in the British Advance in Picardy.

The move forward was made by bus column, and at 4 p.m. on the 30th July the Battalion arrived at La Houssoye, a small village on the Albert-Amiens road, whence on the next day it was to proceed to the line to relieve the 32nd Battn. Australian Infantry in trenches south-west of Morlancourt in the angle between the River Ancre and the River Somme.

CHAPTER XIII

MARCH TO JULY, 1918: THE 9TH BATTALION DURING THE GERMAN OFFENSIVES, 1918; IN THE BATTLE OF ST. QUENTIN, IN THE ACTION AT FALVY AND IN THE BATTLE OF ROSIERES; THE REMNANTS OF THE BATTALION IN THE COMPOSITE BATTALION, IN THE BATTLE OF THE AVRE; THE REORGANISATION OF THE BATTALION AND ITS RETURN TO THE LENS AREA.

ON March 11th the Battalion left the hutments in the Devise area, which lay some six miles south-east of Peronne, by motor lorry and proceeded to Villecholles, whence it marched to relieve part of the 2nd Cavalry Division in the front line. Battalion Headquarters were at Maissemy, five miles north-west of St. Quentin.

The Battalion remained in this sector until the night of the 17th March, when it was relieved by the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt. and went into Brigade Reserve at Vermand, three miles south-west of Maissemy. During the six days spent in the front line the enemy's artillery was noticeably silent, and it seemed as if he were reserving ammunition for some definite purpose.

The 18th March was spent, as was usual on leaving the line, in bathing, refitting, kit inspection, etc.; but while at Vermand one company stood to arms daily one hour before dawn, in case of a sudden attack. The enemy sent over large bombing squadrons nightly, but the Battalion luckily sustained no casualties. On the night of March 20th an attack was expected, and gas-shelling being anticipated, the men slept with their "box respirators" in the ready position. On this day B Company, under 2nd Lieut. A. V. Pratt, was sent to reinforce the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt. in the trenches east of Maissemy.

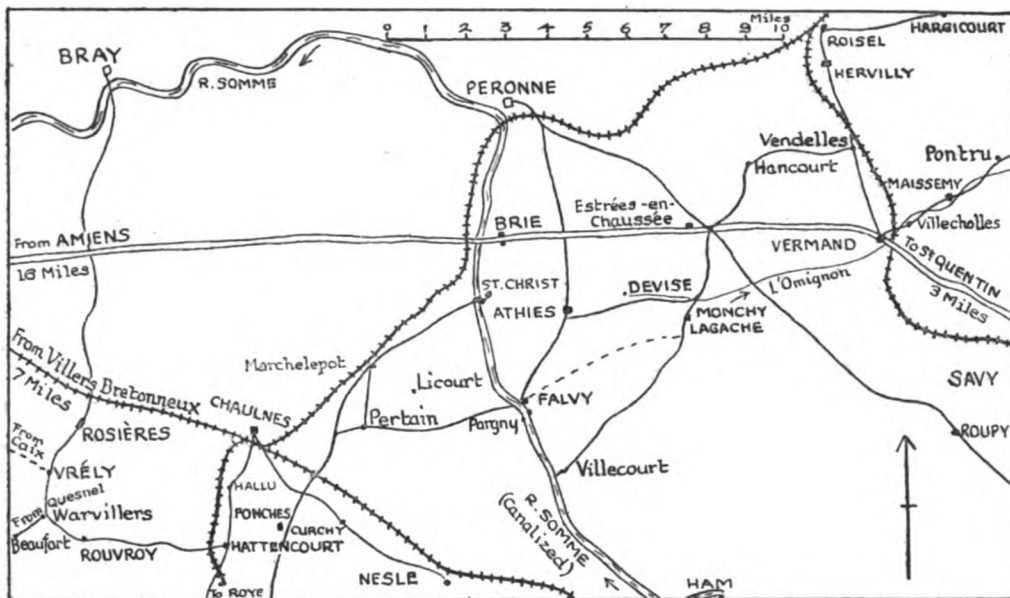
About 4.30 a.m. on March 21st the first battle of the German offensives, 1918, which is now known as the Battle of St. Quentin, opened with an intense bombardment. The morning was very misty, making it impossible to see more than a few yards; in fact, B Company when manning their reserve trench just east of Maissemy had to join hands and be led up to the trench by an officer. The account of the events of this day will be clearer if the story of this detached company is followed out before we turn to that of the other three companies of the 9th Battn. East Surrey.

When the bombardment started, the strength of B Company was 5 officers and about 120 other ranks. By 11 a.m. it had several casualties, including 2nd Lieut. Pratt killed and 2nd Lieut. Sharp wounded, but had seen no hostile troops. 2nd Lieut. Clare had assumed command after 2nd Lieut. Pratt's death, and had sent off 2nd Lieut. Mann with a Lewis-gun team to protect his left flank, and 2nd Lieut. Seaton to try and get in touch with troops in rear. The latter officer was captured almost immediately. Shortly after 11 a.m., B Company sighted the enemy for the first time and held him off for some time, inflict-

THE 9TH BATTALION IN THE BATTLE OF ST. QUENTIN 139

ing and sustaining heavy casualties. About noon, when the company was reduced to 2nd Lieut. Clare (wounded) and some fifty other ranks, and the ammunition had run short, the Germans rushed the trench and captured the survivors, with the exception of thirty N.C.O.'s and men, who managed to escape and rejoin the Battalion at Villecholles.

Meanwhile the remainder of the Battalion at Vermand "stood to" when the bombardment commenced. Shortly afterwards a shell fell among the horses of the Battalion transport, killing and wounding several of them, and wounding Captain E. L. Whiteman, the Transport Officer. Captain Whiteman succeeded



THE ACTIONS OF THE 9TH BATTALION IN THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE OF MARCH, 1918.

in getting his transport into a place of safety, and remained at duty. At 7.30 a.m. the signallers' hut was struck, and several of them were killed or wounded.

About 10 a.m. orders arrived from the 72nd Brigade that the Battalion was to move forward and occupy the high ground east of Villecholles. Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming went on with a Battalion runner to reconnoitre, and directed Major Clark to bring the Battalion up as quickly as possible. The Battalion was soon on the move, and presently met several artillerymen carrying the breech-blocks of their guns. These men reported that the enemy was advancing along the road behind them and was not far away. Major Clark then ordered A Company (Lieut. W. A. V. Waldron) to extend on both sides of the road and to move forward in the reported direction of the enemy's advance. On reaching Villecholles a position was taken up, but presently Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming rejoined and ordered that one platoon of A Company should hold the road just north of the village, and that the rest of the Battalion should advance to the

high ground east of it. On reaching this position every effort was made to ascertain the whereabouts of the enemy, but very little was known of it by neighbouring units.

Leaving the Battalion under cover of the ridge, Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming and Major Clark went forward to make a personal reconnaissance. They walked over the crest and about 200 yards down the eastern slope, when suddenly Major Clark saw some dark objects in front, and thought them to be the enemy. As he was pointing them out to his Commanding Officer heavy machine-gun fire was opened on them and Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming fell, shot through the head. Major Clark threw himself down also and spoke to the Colonel, but receiving no reply looked in his face and saw that he was dead. So died, in the fearless performance of his duty, a gallant and accomplished soldier. Laurence Le Fleming was widely known as an athlete, particularly in the cricket field, and universally liked (indeed, a stronger word might be used) for his very attractive and modest character. He had done fine service in the war with Germany, having commanded three battalions of the East Surrey in times of heavy trial.

The Germans made no advance, and after lying still for about a quarter of an hour Major Clark started to crawl back, and eventually managed to regain the shelter of the ridge. He at once assumed command of the Battalion.

At the moment of Major Clark's arrival C Company, under Captain Warre-Dymond, had extended and was crawling forward towards the crest of the ridge. On reaching the crest the company came under machine-gun fire from a flank, so, under Major Clark's orders, the Battalion took up a better position about 200 yards in rear of the crest, where broken ground gave good cover. During the afternoon the 11th Hussars, under Lieut.-Colonel Anderson, came up dismounted. Their orders were to make a counter-attack at 6.30 p.m. supported by two companies East Surrey, but at the last moment the attack was cancelled by superior order. Lieut.-Colonel Anderson was then placed in command of Advance Brigade Headquarters, and his regiment joined the East Surrey in manning the defences. All worked during the night in improving these. More trenches were dug and barbed wire erected. Ammunition, food and water were brought up, and the night passed without incident. Daybreak of March 22nd was attended by a thick fog. It was decided to bring in Lieut.-Colonel Le Fleming's body, and Pte. Turner, a "runner" of C Company, volunteered to take a party out for the purpose. The body was brought in and carried to the dressing station at Villecholles. Pte. Turner, a brave young soldier, was subsequently killed. Early in the morning also an artillery officer reported at Battalion Headquarters that several field guns were out in front. These were successfully brought in by a party of about thirty men, chiefly of the 11th Hussars, under an officer of that regiment.

At 10 a.m. the crest was heavily shelled by the German artillery, but the position of the Battalion was not detected and no harm was done. The bombardment lasted half an hour, during which some gramophones which had been brought in with the guns were kept playing in the front trench. The men were in excellent spirits.

At 10.30 the German infantry advanced, but on reaching our wire a rapid and accurate rifle and Lewis-gun fire was opened, and in a few minutes every one of the enemy who could be seen was lying dead or wounded on the ground. An hour later a similar attack met with the same fate. All ranks of the Battalion were in high spirits, feeling implicit confidence in themselves and their arms. About 12.30 p.m. the enemy made a third and desperate attack, bringing several machine guns to bear on the left flank of the Battalion. A portion of the line was driven in, but the situation was quickly restored with the help of a few Headquarters' details under the command of Major Clark. The ground in front of the wire was now thickly strewn with dead and dying Germans, many bodies hanging on the barbed wire.

Soon after the third repulse of the enemy the Battalion was ordered to retire, in consequence of German advances at other points of the line. Accordingly the Battalion reluctantly retired about five miles to the cross-roads half a mile east of Estrées-en-Chaussée. During the retirement Captain F. Lester, commanding D Company, was mortally wounded and captured by the enemy, and a number of N.C.O.'s and men were killed and wounded. Battalion Headquarters were the last to leave, and narrowly escaped capture, the enemy at one time being within a hundred yards of them. Passing through Vermand, Lieut.-Colonel Anderson, commanding advanced Brigade Headquarters, met Major Clark and warmly congratulated him on the splendid fight put up by the Battalion. On arriving at the rendezvous the Battalion formed up clear of the road and reorganized, the men being then allowed to pile arms and rest. Lieut.-Colonel L. J. Wyatt, the acting Brigadier, also complimented Major Clark on the fine work of the Battalion. After a short rest the Battalion moved to Monchy Lagache, about two miles to the south, and took up an outpost position east of that village, with its left resting on L'Omignon Brook. In the evening the cookers and water-carts were brought up and the men had a good hot meal. Ammunition was completed and other deficiencies made good during the night.

The morning of March 23rd was again very foggy, and the outposts stood-to for some hours. About 9 a.m. it was reported that the XVIII Corps on the right were being heavily pressed, and in consequence the Battalion was ordered to withdraw and cross the River Somme at Falvy, five miles distant. During the march the rear company (D) was placed under the orders of the Brigadier of the 17th Infantry Brigade. On reaching the high ground east of Falvy the 72nd Brigade took up a position and awaited the enemy, who was presently seen advancing in considerable strength on the right front. Their artillery could be seen galloping forward, and the Battalion did some long-range shooting. After a stand here of an hour the Battalion was ordered to withdraw across the river. This was carried out by sections, as the road was being shelled by the enemy. The crossing was successfully performed, the bridge being subsequently blown up by the Royal Engineers. D Company was still absent, it was presumed with the 17th Brigade. In accordance with orders the Battalion halted on the Pertain-Marchelepote road, about four miles west of Falvy. A little later twenty-five men of D Company joined. They were saturated with water, having swum the

Somme. They stated that the Company had arrived at the bridge, only to find it blown up. Those who could swim were ordered to cross. The remainder of the company, under Lieut. R. B. Crabb, offered a stout resistance and checked the enemy's advance for some time, until their ammunition was exhausted and they were captured. The swimmers who had escaped were sent to the Battalion transport to be refitted and rested.

The Pertain-Marchelepot road coming under fire later, the Battalion was moved into a field just north-west of Pertain, where tea and a hot meal were provided, and all made themselves as comfortable as circumstances would permit.

At about 4.30 a.m. on March 24th the Battalion was ordered to move back at 7.30 to Chaulnes, distant three miles. On arrival there a portion of the much-battered village was allotted as billets, and cellars and a few habitable rooms provided the necessary accommodation. Soon, however, the Battalion was again on the move, having been ordered to march to Hattencourt, four miles to the south, and there to take up a defensive line facing south-east, with the right resting on the Chaulnes-Roye railway, and the left linking up with the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. near Fonches. At Hallu, on the march, Major-General Daly, the Divisional Commander, made an informal inspection of the Battalion. He hailed Major Clark and told him that the Battalion was looking splendid and its tail well up. All were highly pleased by these appreciative words. On arrival at the Hattencourt position a fairly strong belt of wire was found ready, and each section was ordered to dig a trench for itself about 50 yards in rear of it. The men worked well, and by midnight each section had dug a good trench.

Early in the morning of March 25th orders arrived that the 24th Division was to support an attack about to be made by the 8th Division, the 72nd Brigade being in Divisional Reserve. The Battalion accordingly assembled on the road and marched about 9 a.m. to a point one and a half miles north-east of Fonches, where it formed up under cover of the Chaulnes-Nesle railway. The attack was cancelled, and the Battalion was ordered to make a rapid march to cover Fonches, where an attack was expected. This order was at once carried out, the Battalion holding the centre, with the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. on its left and the 19th Entrenching Battalion on its right, towards Hattencourt.

The Battalion had not long been in position when the German bombardment opened, from which A Company suffered rather heavily. An attack followed, which was beaten off with heavy loss to the enemy. During the night the enemy's shell fire was intense and caused many casualties. The Germans made repeated attempts to rush portions of the line, but without success. Captain Warre-Dymond and Lieut. Blower, with a N.C.O., while attempting to get touch with the West Kent Regt. on their left, surprised a party of Germans who were building a barricade in the trench leading to that battalion, and drove them off with loss.

At about 1 a.m. on March 26th the Battalion withdrew under orders to a line running from Hattencourt to Hallu. This was the old German front line, evacuated by them in 1916, and lying some five miles south-east of Rosières, from which village this battle takes its name. The 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt.

were on the left of the Battalion at Hallu, and details of the XVIII Corps held a wood on the right. At about 8 a.m. the Germans penetrated some part of the wood on the right and attacked A Company. Major Clark sent orders to the company to give no ground, promising support, if necessary. Very shortly afterwards a message arrived from the Brigade Major saying that the enemy had broken through to the south and that the Battalion was to withdraw to a line two miles west of its present position. The companies were accordingly ordered to withdraw, but before this could be effected the enemy launched a violent attack. The Battalion, now reduced to about 300 men, was holding a front of about 1000 yards almost entirely in the open, and beat off the enemy's attacks again and again. A lull then followed, during which an attempt was made to withdraw. A party of between thirty and forty men, chiefly signallers and a very fine body of men, under Lieut. M. S. Blower, was sent to the right flank, to cover the retirement. The left company (C), which under Captain Warre-Dymond, its only remaining officer, had been fighting most gallantly, sent back the greater part of its men, under Company Sergt.-Major Hyde; while Captain Warre-Dymond, with his Company Headquarters, joined Major Clark. The next to withdraw were the remnants of B and D Companies. The enemy was only about 100 yards away and the retirement was most difficult, as it had to be carried out in the open and in full view of the enemy. The Battalion, however, managed to retire several hundred yards, when it was found that several bodies of the enemy had penetrated round the right flank and were between the Battalion and the line to which it was retiring. As the Germans were closely following up the retirement, and also attacking on the left, the Battalion was completely surrounded. Major Clark decided to fight it out, and a position was taken up in an old communication trench. The enemy, who had opened a heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, began to close in and a desperate fight ensued. Where the ground favoured them, the enemy worked up to within fifty or sixty yards and opened a heavy fire, killing several men, in addition to Lieut. S. K. Grant, a most gallant and capable young officer, who had been a tower of strength throughout the retreat. Lieut. Grant was shot through the head while in the act of taking aim at one of the Germans. Major Clark had already been knocked down and severely damaged in the face by the explosion of a shell, but the gallant resistance was continued. The Germans failed, in fact, to rush the trench, and the fight dragged on as long as the ammunition held out. At length the last shot was fired, and the Germans charged in and took the remnant of the Battalion—2 officers and 55 men. Major Clark states that Captain Warre-Dymond's conduct was admirable to the last, and his own gallantry, skill and determination could hardly have been surpassed even in his brave Battalion. Lieut. Blower and his flank guard fought equally gallantly, losing half their number and making a long resistance against heavy odds.

There were a great number of acts of heroism among officers and men, only a few of which, unfortunately, could be recorded. Captain H. A. Douglas and Lieut. W. R. Corley did excellent work throughout.

Two Lewis gunners of C Company deserve special mention among the brave.

They were firing their gun when it was destroyed by a shell, and they were badly bruised and shaken. They at once picked up rifles and continued firing until they were killed by machine-gun fire. A lance-corporal of A Company, supposed to be Lce.-Cpl. Bradley, had been shot in the breast, but he continued to work his Lewis gun alone.

After the capture of the survivors of the companies, all that remained of the Battalion was a small party of about thirty men with Lieut. Mann. Captain Whiteman, whose gallant conduct as Transport Officer has already been mentioned, took command of this party, and it was attached to the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt., which had also sustained heavy losses. The survivors of the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt. were also attached to the West Kent, thereafter styled the "Composite Battalion." During the day this battalion was posted as reserve to the 24th Division, which was then holding Rouvroy. Here the 10th Battn. Loyal North Lancashire Regt., under Lieut.-Colonel Cameron, joined the Division as a reinforcement and went into the fighting line with the remnants of the 72nd Brigade. All through the early part of March 27th these troops fought for the possession of Rouvroy, which was captured by the enemy about 2 p.m. after a four hours' struggle. The 72nd Brigade then retired to a line covering Warvillers, Beaufort and Vrely; the Composite Battalion being then placed in reserve behind Warvillers.

On the 28th this line was gallantly held by the Loyal North Lancashire Regt. for a considerable time, but the Germans constantly attacked in great strength, and eventually, after a hand-to-hand struggle with the enemy, a retirement became necessary. The 24th Division then fell back to the line Caix-Quesnel, which was occupied by about 1 p.m. A little later the Germans were found to have worked through on the right and to be in rear of a portion of the line. It was therefore necessary to continue the retirement across the River Avre to the Bois de Senecat, west of Castel, where the 72nd Brigade was concentrated. Here the men got a hot meal at about 3 a.m. on March 29th, and they lay down in the rain till daybreak. In the evening the Division took up a line covering Thézy, eight miles south-east of Amiens, the 72nd Brigade being on the left.

On March 30th the Composite Battalion moved back at 11 a.m. into Thézy, less the East Surrey company, which remained in the line manning a few posts. On the 31st a good deal of movement and action took place, but no special incident affecting the East Surrey company is mentioned. The strength of the East Surrey company on March 31st, 1918, was 3 officers and 30 other ranks.

The casualties of the 9th Battn. East Surrey during the month of March were as follows:—

Officers.—*Killed or mortally wounded*: Lieut.-Colonel L. J. Le Fleming; Captains H. A. Douglas and F. Lester (6th Battn. attd.); Lieut. S. K. Grant; 2nd Lieuts. A. V. Pratt, W. R. Corley, G. B. Sharp and H. S. Webb (4th Battn. attd.).

Wounded: Captain E. L. Whiteman; Lieut. L. C. Thomas; 2nd Lieuts. C. McL. Jones, G. A. Hogg, C. Stuart, J. W. Squire, A. F. Hammond and F. W. Hathaway.

Missing: Major C. A. Clark (wounded); Captain G. W. Warre-Dymond; Lieut. M. S. Blower; 2nd Lieuts. A. E. Clare (wounded), J. W. S. Seaton, R. B. Crabb, A. F. Orchard, B. Bishop and W. S. Austin.

Other ranks.—*Killed*, 23; *wounded*, 154; *missing*, 215.

On the 1st and 2nd April the Composite Battalion was resting and cleaning up at Thézy, well supplied with food. On the 3rd the East Surrey and North Stafford companies relieved two companies of the 10th Battn. Loyal North Lancashire Regt. in the forward posts. On the 4th the Battle of the Avre took place. The 72nd Brigade was at first in support in the Bois l'Abbé, a mile west of Villers-Bretonneux; but this position proving unsuitable, the Brigade moved back to a copse near Gentelles, about 3000 yards in rear of the Divisional front. Heavy rain fell all day. On April 5th the East Surrey company was employed in digging a line of posts in the copse, and at night the Composite Battalion was withdrawn from the line. It was conveyed in motor-buses to Salouel, two miles south-west of Amiens. On April 6th it marched thence to Saleux Station, where it entrained at 2.30 p.m. for St. Valerie, at the mouth of the River Somme. On the 8th, the 9th Battn. East Surrey resumed its separate existence as a Battalion and moved to Franlen. On the 9th April, the 10th Battn. Loyal North Lancashire Regt. was amalgamated with the Battalion, its Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel E. A. Cameron, D.S.O., being appointed to the command and bringing with him 10 officers and 120 other ranks of his former corps.

On April 10th the remnant of the 9th Battn. East Surrey was inspected by Brigadier-General R. W. Morgan, Commanding 72nd Brigade, who spoke to them of the gallant conduct of Major Clark and of all ranks of the Battalion east of Hallu. On the following day a draft of 112 young soldiers joined the Battalion, and on April 12th the history of the East Surrey Regt. was related to all the newcomers. Reorganization rapidly proceeded, and on the 13th the Battalion Diary reports that it was nearly completed. The young soldiers were well trained and very keen, showing great promise, which they subsequently made good. On April 14th the 72nd Brigade marched to Ault and back, the 9th Battn. East Surrey parading 580 strong.

The Battalion being ordered to move by train to the First Army area left billets at 9 p.m. on the 16th April, entrained at Feuquières and, after a tedious journey, arrived at Diéval at 5.30 p.m. on the 17th. Here training proceeded vigorously until the end of the month. Twenty-two officers joined the Battalion on April 19th. On the last day of the month, training and musketry having been completed, 5 officers and 8 N.C.O.'s went up to reconnoitre the trenches to be taken over by the Battalion in the St. Emile sector, west of Lens.

The following decorations were awarded to officers and men of the Battalion for the fighting from March 21st to April 5th:—

Distinguished Service Order: Major C. A. Clark.

The Military Cross was awarded to Captains G. Warre-Dymond and E. L. Whiteman, and also to the Rev. G. B. D. Poole and Captain T. E. Walker, U.S.A. Medical Service, attached to 9th East Surrey Regt. From the 21st to the 28th March the last-named officer, under heavy shell and machine-gun fire,

succeeded in organizing the removal of wounded officers and men. He also performed the duties of Medical Officer to the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt., and rendered valuable assistance to the 12th Battn. Sherwood Foresters who were without a Medical Officer. His work in dressing the wounded under shell fire was reported as magnificent.

Major J. C. Brown and 2nd Lieut. H. J. Lancaster also received the Military Cross for acts of gallantry while serving with the 10th Battn. Loyal North Lancashire Regt.

The Distinguished Conduct Medal was conferred on Company Sergt.-Major, afterwards Acting Regtl. Sergt.-Major, G. Hyde and Cpl. W. Halliwell for conspicuous gallantry on the 21st and 22nd March.

Sergt. J. Leonard received a bar to his Military Medal for conspicuously gallant conduct while serving with the 10th Battn. Loyal North Lancashire Regt.

Military Medals for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty were awarded to the following N.C.O.'s and men of the Battalion:—Acting Company Sergt.-Major C. Finch; Sergts. G. T. Funnell, A. J. House, J. Evans, A. W. Chappell, J. Dugdale, D.C.M., A. Annison and F. G. Webb; Cpls. R. J. Elliott and C. McGrath; Lce.-Cpls. S. V. Evans and A. Irish; Ptes. A. Wilson, J. T. D. Bye, H. J. Richens, J. Crimmins, P. W. Newman, H. J. Kirkum and A. J. Taylor.

It was also notified that the Croix de Guerre had been awarded to Company Sergt.-Major J. Graham.

Military Medals were also conferred on the undernamed for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while serving with the 10th Battn. Loyal North Lancashire Regt.:—Cpl. J. R. Turner; Lce.-Cpl. J. Heyes; Ptes. J. S. Johnson and H. Neale.

The casualties during the month were approximately 25 officers and 200 other ranks; while no less than 28 officers and 651 other ranks had joined the Battalion.

Marching from Diéval at 10 a.m. on May 1st the Battalion arrived at Bully Grenay at 6.30 p.m. and took over the right sector St. Emile, north-west of Lens, on the following day. It remained in the line until May 8th, when, on relief by the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt., it went into Brigade Support at Cité St. Pierre, where it remained without special incident till May 16th. On this day the Battalion again took over the St. Emile right sector, finding that it had been lengthened from a front of 1100 to one of 1600 yards. On May 17th a raid, carried out at one hour's notice by parties under Lieut. A. W. Harvey, 2nd Lieut. D. Service and Sergt. J. Dugdale, was very well managed and elicited a complimentary after-order from the Division.

On May 22nd the Battalion was relieved in the line by the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. and went into Brigade Reserve at Bully Grenay. Here training was carried out as usual, and on the 27th, Lieut.-Colonel Cameron presented the ribbons of the Military Medal to the N.C.O.'s and men to whom they had recently been awarded. On the 28th the Battalion relieved the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt. in Brigade Support at Cité St. Pierre.

The casualties during the month were 3 other ranks killed and Lieut. J. P. Stevens and 22 other ranks wounded.

The Battalion remained in Brigade Support at Cité St. Pierre until the night of June 3rd, when it again occupied the St. Emile sector. At 2.15 a.m. on June 6th the enemy raided two of the Battalion posts. Owing to the prompt action of 2nd Lieut. E. J. Wood, the officer on duty in the trench, and to the sharp lookout kept, the raiders were driven off, leaving 3 dead men and 1 live prisoner behind them. Two men of the Battalion were wounded during the raid, and 6 by the accompanying artillery fire. The raiding party numbered 18 men, under a corporal, and it was repulsed by 1 officer and 16 men, 6 of whom were wounded before the raiders reached our trenches. 2nd Lieut. E. J. Wood was awarded the Military Cross for his conduct on this occasion.

The Battalion remained in the line, showing much energy in patrolling and sniping, until the night of June 9th, when it was relieved by the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. and moved into Brigade Reserve at Bully Grenay. Here it remained for five days, and on June 14th moved up to Cité St. Pierre in support. After an uneventful week here the Battalion relieved the 1st North Staffordshire in the St. Emile sector on the night of June 21st. During the night of June 23rd a patrol under Sergt. J. Dugdale, D.C.M., M.M., came under machine-gun fire, and the sergeant, a most gallant N.C.O. who had frequently distinguished himself, was unfortunately killed. The Battalion remained in the line till the night of the 26th June, when on relief it withdrew to Bully Grenay. During this tour the Battalion suffered severely from the epidemic of Spanish influenza then raging, and the officers were one day reduced to ten fit for duty.

Meritorious Service Medals were awarded during the month to Sergt. A. Cox and Pte. G. Tomlinson, and Military Medals to the following:—Sergt. C. B. Foster; Lce.-Cpls. J. Wearing and J. Collins; Ptes. A. Chapman, G. Perrin and R. A. Till.

The casualties during the month were 4 other ranks killed and 39 wounded.

The strength on June 30th was 47 officers and 858 other ranks, of which the available fighting strength was 17 officers and 635 other ranks.

The War Diary for the first week of July is missing, but it does not appear that anything worthy of record happened in that period. On the 8th the Battalion relieved the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt. in the St. Emile sector. Owing to the strength of the Battalion one company only was in the front line. The tour of duty lasted until the night of July 14th, when the Battalion went into Brigade Reserve at Bully Grenay. Beyond the usual patrol activity the tour presented no feature of special interest. On the night of July 16th the Battalion carried out a test "Man Battle-positions." The operation was expeditiously carried out, but unfortunately the enemy shelled the locality while it was in progress, 2 men being killed and 2 wounded. On the 18th and 19th a coming raid was rehearsed, and training went on as usual.

On the night of July 20th the Battalion moved into Brigade Support at Cité St. Pierre, whence on the night of the 24th a party of 2 officers (Lieut. Birtles and 2nd Lieut. Teversham) and 58 men of A Company carried out the

projected raid on the enemy's trenches. Two of the sections were stopped by machine-gun fire, but the other two sections, under 2nd Lieut. Teversham, got into the German first line. They shot two Germans and dispersed several others, and captured and brought back a machine gun. They did not, however, succeed in securing a prisoner.

On the night of the 26th the Battalion moved into the front line. Here constant night patrolling was kept up, and on the night of the 31st the raid of the 24th was repeated, under 2nd Lieut. E. G. Birtles. On this occasion an unwounded German was captured by Sergt. Newall, and the raiding party crept back through the hostile barrage with a loss of 1 man killed and 2 wounded. For his services in command of these two raids Lieut. Birtles received the Military Cross; while the Commanding Officer was complimented by the Corps Commander on the splendid *morale* of the Battalion.

The casualties during the month were 5 other ranks killed and 8 wounded. The strength of the Battalion at the end of July was 40 officers and 958 other ranks.

CHAPTER XIV

MARCH TO JULY, 1918: THE 12TH BATTALION IN THE GERMAN OFFENSIVES, 1918, IN ACTION NORTH OF BAPAUME AT MORY AND SAPIGNIES; MOVES TO THE YPRES AREA.

ON the 21st March the Great German Offensive opened. The Battalion, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel G. L. Brown (Middlesex Regt., who had been appointed on the 18th March), paraded at 4 p.m. and marched from Halloy, near Doullens, to Mondicourt, whence it proceeded by rail to Achiet-le-Grand and thence by road to Savoy Camp.

During the morning of the 22nd March the Germans had been heavily attacking the front of the IV Corps (Third Army) in this area, and at 1 p.m. the Battalion was ordered to take up a position of readiness north-east of Sapignies and facing Mory (see map opposite page 156). At 6 p.m. fresh orders were received for the Battalion, in conjunction with the other two battalions of the 122nd Brigade, to move about a mile to the eastward and take up a line astride the Bapaume-Vaulx-Vraucourt road. This position was reached by 8 p.m., and the new line was consolidated by 1.30 a.m. on the following morning.

About 2 a.m. on the 23rd March the Battalion was ordered to hand over its defences to the other battalions of the Brigade and to return to the position of readiness near Sapignies, which it reached at 5 a.m. Shortly afterwards information was received explaining these instructions. Mory was the point of junction of the 41st Division (of the IV Corps) with the 40th Division to the north of it, which belonged to the VI Corps. The latter Corps was also being heavily attacked, and, in view of the possibility of its being forced back and of the village of Mory being captured by the Germans, the 12th Battn. East Surrey was to form a defensive left flank for the 41st Division. To carry out these instructions, A and B Companies were moved forward by 9 a.m. over the crest-line and dug themselves in on a line covering Mory, which lay in the valley below. The remainder of the Battalion was in support in rear, where the ground afforded cover from view. There was considerable aerial activity during the day and small parties of the enemy commenced to enter Mory; but in the afternoon that village was retaken by the 13th Battn. East Surrey, of the 40th Division, who held it till darkness came on, when they withdrew to a position west of the village.

To close the gap between the 13th and 12th Battns. East Surrey, D Company of the last-named unit was moved up in line with A and B Companies. Several patrols were also sent out by the 12th Battalion to get in touch with the troops to the north of them, who had apparently not been identified as the 13th Battalion. 2nd Lieut. F. R. Matthews, who commanded one of these patrols, was killed, and the proximity of the 13th Battalion does not seem to have been reported to the Headquarters of the 12th Battalion.

During daylight of the 24th March the 12th Battn. East Surrey remained in position south of Mory, being shelled by the enemy's artillery and fired upon by his aircraft. At 6 p.m. the Battalion was ordered to withdraw and to rendezvous west of Sapiignies. These orders were cancelled subsequently, and the Battalion then took up a position east of Sapiignies with orders to hold it as long as possible in order to give the remainder of the Brigade sufficient time to organize a new defensive line near Bihucourt, about two miles to the westward.

Along the new line taken up, which was on a lower level than the village of Sapiignies, A, B and C Companies dug trenches during the night of the 24th/25th. On either flank of the Battalion was a Composite Battalion. D Company was about 700 yards away to the south guarding the Arras-Bapaume road. At intervals during the night small parties of British troops who had been in continual contact with the enemy for forty-eight hours withdrew through the line held by the 12th Battn. East Surrey, and before daylight it was discovered that the units on the flanks of the Battalion had been withdrawn and that D Company, in accordance with its orders, had conformed to their movement.

At dawn on the 25th March, Lieut.-Colonel Brown realized that A, B and C Companies, with both flanks open and a bare, upward slope of half a mile in rear of them, would have little chance of extricating themselves when once engaged. He decided, therefore, to sacrifice only one company in order to carry out his orders, and at 5.30 a.m. sent A and B Companies, under the Adjutant, Captain H. S. Walker, back to a position west of Sapiignies. Lieut.-Colonel Brown and some machine gunners remained with C Company, which now held a series of posts occupying about 300 yards of the newly dug trench.

The enemy attacked C Company soon after sunrise, and about 6.30 a.m. the company commander, Captain A. F. Copp, was severely wounded. As it was impossible to convey him on a stretcher, with the assistance of Pte. H. J. Sherborne he crawled back some 600 yards with a broken thigh and succeeded in reaching the troops in rear. Although communication between all the various posts was impossible owing to the enemy's continuous fire, C Company held its ground until 9.15 a.m. At that hour the company was fired into from behind, and it was obvious that the enemy had turned both its flanks. Lieut.-Colonel Brown therefore gave the posts, numbering some forty men, with whom he was able to communicate, permission to attempt to retire. Out of these forty men about sixteen made the attempt with Lieut.-Colonel Brown; but he and Lce.-Cpl. Fry alone escaped, the remainder being killed or taken, as were the remaining posts of C Company. This gallant stand of C Company saved sixty guns at Achiet-le-Grand from capture, and afforded to a number of British troops of more advanced units who were in danger of being cut off an opportunity of regaining the British lines.

Meanwhile A and B Companies had been holding a line between Sapiignies and Bihucourt, where they were joined by D Company about 5.30 a.m. on the 25th March. About noon they were withdrawn to the new line dug by the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. in front of Bihucourt, where Lieut.-Colonel Brown rejoined them and which they helped to hold until 1 a.m. on the 26th March.

THE 41ST DIVISION MOVES TO THE YPRES SALIENT 151

Among the casualties on March 25th were:—*Killed*: Lieut. F. L. Warland. *Wounded*: Captain A. F. Copp; Lieuts. G. C. Davenport, L. L. Linford, J. F. Tamblyn and J. A. Golding. 2nd Lieuts. R. C. Johns and L. Dawson were taken prisoners with C Company.

At 1 a.m. on March 26th, Lieut.-Colonel Brown received orders to withdraw to Bucquoy, and the Battalion arrived there at 3.30 a.m., resting in a field south of the village till 8 a.m., when they were ordered to take up a line about three miles further west, near Gommecourt. This was done by 9 a.m., and in that position a quiet day was passed, as Bucquoy was on the line where the German advance in this area was finally stopped. At 1 a.m. on March 27th the Battalion was again moved to Bienvillers, where it rested in a field south of the village, the day again being quiet.

On March 28th the Battalion at 11 a.m. took up a line south of Gommecourt. There was a considerable amount of shelling of the back areas this day. March 29th was a fairly quiet day. At 11 p.m. the Battalion moved via Gommecourt and took the place of the 7th Battn. Manchester Regt. in support to the 124th Brigade, opposite Bucquoy. March 30th and 31st were fairly quiet days, except for intermittent shelling by the enemy, when 2nd Lieut. A. E. Bell was slightly wounded.

The casualties during the month were:—

Killed or mortally wounded: 2 officers and 19 other ranks.

Wounded: 6 officers and 91 other ranks.

Prisoners of War: 2 officers and 118 other ranks.

Missing: 51 other ranks.

The strength at the end of March was 32 officers and 709 other ranks.

After a fairly quiet day the Battalion was relieved at 9 p.m. on April 1st by the 1/5th Battn. Lancashire Fusiliers and marched to the Souastre road, whence it moved by motor-bus to Thievres. Reaching this place early on April 2nd, it marched to an aerodrome at Marieux, whence it moved later to billets at Amplier. The 41st Division had now been withdrawn from the line and was under orders to join the Second Army in the Ypres salient. On the 3rd the Battalion accordingly marched back to Thièvres, whence it proceeded in motor-buses to Frévent and thence by rail to Poperinghe. Having reached Poperinghe at 4 a.m. on April 4th, the Battalion marched to School Camp, where it remained till April 7th. A draft of 102 men joined on the 6th, bringing the strength of the Battalion to 33 officers and 864 other ranks. The Battalion was now to return to the fighting zone, and at 4.45 p.m. on April 7th it marched to Quinton Station, whence it was conveyed by light railway to Borry Farm. Here guides were met from the 1st Battn. Guernsey L.I., which the Battalion then relieved on the Passchendaele Ridge. Major C. F. Stallard left this day to join the 10th Battn. West Kent Regt. as Second-in-Command.

April 8th, 9th and 10th were quiet days with heavy mist, making observation difficult. A German patrol of four men was captured on the 8th. On April 11th the German artillery was active, and the Battalion had 1 man killed and 4 wounded. During the night the Battalion was relieved by the 2/6th Battn. North

Staffordshire Regt. (59th Division) and entrained on April 12th at Iberian for St. Jean, whence it marched to Maiden Camp. At 6 p.m. it moved on to a line between Square Farm and Low Farm, where it dug in during the night, in anticipation of a general withdrawal of the existing front line. This withdrawal, which was arranged in order to release additional troops to meet the German offensives further south, was being effected by stages. April 13th was spent in improving the new front line, and at 1 a.m. on the 14th the Battalion was relieved by the 26th Battn. Royal Fusiliers and moved to Carte Keep and Mill Keep, where in the evening it began work on another new line about one mile east of Ypres. At 5 p.m. the Battalion moved back to a camp near Goldfish Château, where it remained under unpleasant conditions until April 26th. Here the Battalion worked continuously on the defences, the camp and neighbourhood being frequently shelled. At noon on the 26th the Battalion moved to the Brigade rendezvous near Goldfish Château, spending the day on the field. At 7 p.m. the Battalion marched to Dambre Camp, where it remained till the end of the month. On the 27th and 28th the Battalion was held in readiness all day, but on the 29th the situation permitted musketry to be carried on by platoons, and on the 30th recreational training was practised. Captain H. S. Walker was wounded this day and was invalided home soon afterwards. The casualties in other ranks during the month were Captain E. V. Whiteway, M.C., who died on the 29th of wounds received while attached to the Headquarters of the 122nd Brigade, 4 men killed and 29 wounded. The strength on April 30th was 43 officers and 1037 other ranks.

The Battalion furnished a working party of 8 officers and 400 men on the line behind Vlamertinghe on May 1st, and in the evening of the 2nd moved to the Ypres sector to take over outpost positions from the 26th Battn. Royal Fusiliers (123rd Brigade). During the afternoons of May 3rd and 4th the Battalion front and reserve lines were heavily shelled, 6 men being killed and 21 wounded. The Battalion remained in the outpost line till the evening of May 7th, when it was relieved by the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. and took over other trenches north of Ypres. Here it remained for two days, and during the night of May 10th moved further to its right. The Battalion held this last position, without special incident beyond the usual artillery and aerial activity, until the night of the 17th May, when it was relieved by the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. and marched back to camp west of Vlamertinghe. Here a week was passed, the camp and surrounding area being repeatedly shelled and the enemy's aircraft showing great activity. Casualties were, however, few. At 8.30 p.m. on May 25th the Battalion relieved the Royal Fusiliers in the Ypres sector, remaining so posted until the end of the month. Throughout this period the enemy's aircraft showed great activity, but casualties were fortunately light. The total casualties during the month were 8 men killed and 2nd Lieuts. W. Greenhill, F. C. Ells, A. J. Rodd and 47 men wounded or gassed. The strength of the Battalion at the end of the month was 42 officers and 1043 other ranks.

The honours awarded during the month for the fighting north of Bapaume in March were:—

Distinguished Service Order : Lieut.-Colonel G. L. Brown.

Bar to Military Cross : Captains H. S. Walker and J. A. Rogers.

Military Cross : Captain F. B. B. Dowling; Lieuts. G. C. Davenport and A. F. Copp; 2nd Lieut. R. McKechnie.

Distinguished Conduct Medal : Lce.-Cpl. N. A. Philpott and Pte. H. J. Sherborne.

Military Medal : Sergts. J. Lewis, A. V. N. Thompson, E. Davey, P. E. Newble; Cpl. W. H. Mann; Lce.-Cpl. W. E. Smith; Ptes. T. Chappell, T. Moore, J. Hester, A. Beck, A. F. Dennington and E. A. Smith.

The *London Gazette* of the 31st May also made known the award of the Meritorious Service Medal to Acting Regtl. Sergt.-Major D. Saunders; Regtl. Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. N. Speller and Sergts. G. Nuttman (Transport Sergt.) and W. Turner (Sergt.-Cook). In the last three cases the awards were given in recognition of the valuable services of the recipients in bringing up rations to the Battalion even under the most difficult conditions.

The Battalion remained in the line before Ypres until June 23rd, when the 41st Division was withdrawn for a rest in the St. Omer area. After relief the companies of the 12th Battrn. East Surrey marched independently to Mission Siding. There the Battalion entrained for Proven, and after a day's rest was railed to Watten and marched thence to billets in Bayenghem, ten miles west of St. Omer. On the 6th June, Acting Lieut.-Colonel Brown was promoted to Temporary Lieut.-Colonel. The Battalion remained three weeks at Bayenghem carrying out a course of training. Early on the 25th June the Battalion marched to Rubrouck, continuing the march on the 26th to Beauvaard, where billets were provided. Here the remainder of the month passed quietly. The casualties during June were 3 killed and 19 wounded.

On the 1st July the Battalion marched to the La Clytte sector, near Mt. Kemmel, relieving the 103rd French Regt. in reserve at Reninghelst and West-outré. From the 5th to the 11th and from the 20th to 25th the Battalion was in the front line of the La Clytte sector, the first tour of duty being quiet with few casualties; but during the second tour the artillery was more active, killing 7 men and wounding 3 on the 24th. During the remainder of the month the Battalion was either in support or in reserve in the same sector. Lieut.-Colonel Brown went on leave to England on the 15th, Major C. T. Williams assuming temporary command.

The casualties for the month were: 11 other ranks killed or mortally wounded, and Lieut. H. G. Graves, 2nd Lieut. R. W. Davis and 32 other ranks wounded. The strength of the Battalion at the end of July was 38 officers and 900 other ranks.

CHAPTER XV

MARCH TO NOVEMBER, 1918: THE 13TH BATTALION IN THE GERMAN OFFENSIVES, 1918; IN ACTION AT EREVILLERS AND MORY; IN THE BATTLES OF THE LYS, IS SURROUNDED AT FLEURBAIX AND LOSES HEAVILY; REFITTING IN THE ST. OMER AREA; REDUCED TO A TRAINING STAFF WHICH AFTER A SHORT PERIOD WITH AN AMERICAN REGIMENT RETURNS TO ENGLAND TO RAISE THE BATTALION TO ESTABLISHMENT AT LOWESTOFT. DISBANDMENT ORDERED AND COMPLETED.

THE great German Offensive which opened on the 21st March, 1918, had long been expected by the Allied High Command, and among other preparations in the British Armies to meet it, the 40th Division, from G.H.Q. Reserve had been brought to positions of readiness at Mercatel, Hamélincourt and Blairéville, all a few miles south of Arras. The 13th Battn. East Surrey had moved accordingly from Hendécourt to Mercatel on the 12th March.

At dawn on March 21st the German attack commenced with a heavy fire along the whole front of the VI Corps (Lieut.-General Sir A. Haldane commanding), which extended from Guémappes to Noreuil. The 40th Division, under Major-General John Ponsonby, was at once ordered to send the 120th Brigade into the third defensive system, astride the Bapaume-Ecoust road, north of Vraucourt (see map opposite page 156). A short time afterwards the whole Division was ordered to occupy a line from about one mile north of Vaulx-Vraucourt to the south-east corner of St. Leger Wood. The 13th Battn. East Surrey, which, as already stated, now formed part of the 119th Brigade, reached Hénin-sur-Cojeul at 11.30 p.m., and marching thence by the Hénin-Croisilles road, dug itself in for the night, as the enemy had reached the outskirts of St. Leger and was heavily attacking the 34th Division in Croisilles. About 2.30 a.m. on the 22nd the Battalion marched on to a rendezvous near Judas Farm, three-quarters of a mile west of St. Leger, which it reached at 7 a.m. The 34th Division held St. Leger till the afternoon, when it fell back to some trenches just west of that village. Meanwhile, about 12.30 p.m. on the 22nd, very heavy attacks were launched against the 120th Brigade, which, however, held its ground in front of Vraucourt. An hour later troops on the right of the 120th Brigade were forced back, but the Brigade managed to maintain its position during the heavy fighting which followed. Eventually, however, about 6 p.m., a first and then a second retirement became necessary, which brought the right of the 120th Brigade in line with the 6th Division. To cover the second retirement, the 13th Battn. East Surrey was ordered to attack St. Leger. Two Tanks were allotted to this attack, but were diverted to take part in another counter-attack which proved highly successful. The intended attack of the 13th Battn. East Surrey consequently became impracticable and was countermanded.

The general situation then rendered necessary a further withdrawal of the Army line, and early in the morning of March 23rd the Battalion, which was then in the front line across the Sensée Valley west of St. Leger, was ordered to occupy Ervillers. The enemy was reported to have troops in the adjacent village of Mory, which lay close to the southern boundary of the VI Corps' front. Lieut.-Colonel Warden at once detailed A Company (Captain R. W. H. King) to reconnoitre and occupy Ervillers, and B Company (Captain J. E. M. Crowther) to reconnoitre towards Mory, but not to become seriously engaged, and to prolong A Company's line of defence in front of Ervillers. The two remaining companies and Battalion Headquarters were sent to Béhagnies, to protect that place and the road to it from Ervillers.

When A and B Companies reached Ervillers, about 8.30 a.m. on the 23rd, they found British troops still holding the spur of the east of that village. Captain Crowther proceeded to reconnoitre the road to Mory, and reached a point well to the east of the bridge over the Sensée River, his party being fired on from the high ground north of the road. On returning to Ervillers, he was informed that Mory was strongly held by the enemy and that to attack it with his company was impracticable. Later in the morning the 21st Battn. Middlesex Regt. advanced from the Sensée Valley some distance north of Ervillers against the enemy on the high ground between Mory and St. Leger, and it was decided that B Company, of the 13th Battn. East Surrey, should attack in support of the Middlesex men. At 11 a.m., accordingly, B Company attacked that portion of the high ground which overlooks the Ervillers-Mory road. It did not succeed in carrying the crest-line, though some of No. 5 Platoon were killed within 20 yards of it, but managed to reach a line some 80 yards from the enemy, where it held on. While in this position, Pte. Bark distinguished himself by going forward and retrieving one of the company's Lewis guns, the crew of which had been killed 20 yards from the enemy's line.

It will be seen by reference to the map that the Sensée Valley runs north from Sapignies to Mory, where it bends abruptly westwards towards Ervillers, but passes north-east of that village to St. Leger. Thus, Mory lies in the valley between a spur, running north-east from Sapignies, and the high ground extending towards St. Leger. It is of interest to note that the 12th Battn. East Surrey was posted from 9 a.m. on the 23rd till 6 p.m. on the 24th March on the northern and eastern slopes of the above-mentioned spur south of Mory, forming a defensive left flank for its Division, the 41st, of the IV Corps.

Meanwhile it had been reported to Lieut.-Colonel Warden at Béhagnies that Mory village was held by German snipers and machine guns, but not with infantry in strength. He therefore reported the situation, suggesting a counter-attack, and was ordered to move his Headquarters and C and D Companies to Ervillers and attack Mory village in accordance with the scheme which he had proposed. This was, briefly, to make his main attack on the west of the village with B Company supported by C Company, while A Company was to seize the high ground north of the village and so protect the left flank of the attack. D Company, in reserve, was to be prepared to co-operate by an attack on the

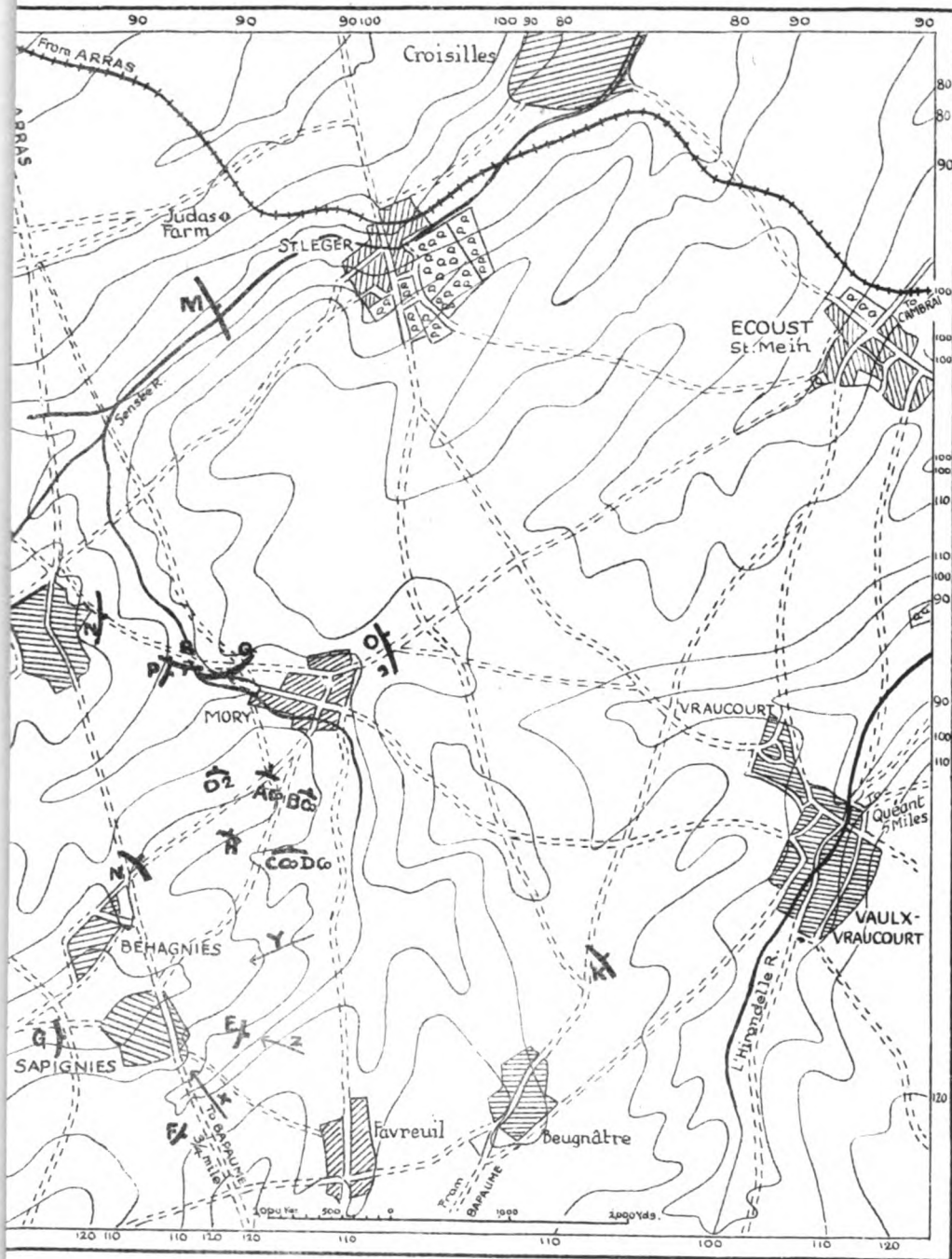
village from the south, and afterwards to mop it up. The Headquarters' Lewis gunners and all battalion snipers were to cover the attack from the spur south of Mory, to which Lieut.-Colonel Warden transferred his Headquarters.

The advance of the Battalion against Mory commenced at 2.30 p.m., B Company moving forward by sectional rushes, supported by C Company (Captain C. G. Norman); while the Battalion snipers, led by Lieut. H. W. Allason, worked their way forward in pairs and kept down the machine-gun and snipers' fire from the village. The enemy at once commenced to reinforce the garrison from behind the ridge east of Mory, and his infantry suffered severely while advancing down the main road from Ecoust into the village. Although B and C Companies were gaining ground, they were exposed to enfilade fire from hostile machine guns on the high ground to their left and suffered many casualties, which included both company commanders wounded. Shortly afterwards the only remaining officer of B Company, 2nd Lieut. F. A. Simmonds, was also wounded, and the command of the company devolved on Sergt. Dooley. To assist the two companies, the reserve company (D) was ordered to attack along the western slope of the spur south of Mory, and eventually all three companies gained the western end of the village.

Here they were reorganized under the few remaining officers (C Company being under Company Sergt.-Major Reed, as no officers remained), and about 5 p.m. a renewed advance was made which won a complete success. The village was captured with great loss to the enemy, and the Battalion established itself in the Army line beyond, while the 21st Battn. Middlesex Regt. occupied the high ground north-west of, the village. Fighting continued until dark, and many prisoners were taken and sent back; but as the enemy kept up a very heavy machine-gun fire on the village, and his troops were seen to be in great strength, a gradual withdrawal from Mory to a line west of the village was ordered. This was duly carried out in the darkness, and the retirement was not detected by the enemy, who attacked Mory in great strength, a heavy Lewis-gun and rifle fire being maintained upon it by the Battalion.

Soon after reaching its new position in the valley between Mory and Ervillers the 13th Battn. East Surrey was for a short time in touch with the 12th Battn. East Surrey on its right. Before, however, the trenches of the 13th Battalion were completed it was attacked, and the valley became the scene of confused fighting which lasted for about two hours. When the enemy had been driven off, Lieut.-Colonel Warden collected and, in accordance with orders received on the previous afternoon, assumed command of the remnants of the three battalions of the 119th Brigade, viz. 13th Battn. East Surrey, 21st Battn. Middlesex and 18th Battn. Welch Regts. Touch was established with the 4th Guards Brigade on the left, but communication with the 12th Battn. East Surrey on the right could not be reopened.

It was arranged with the 4th Guards Brigade that the Ervillers-Mory road should be held as long as possible, but that as soon as the Germans were seen advancing up the Sensée Valley from St. Leger both Brigades should commence a withdrawal west of the Ervillers-Hamélincourt road. At daybreak on the 24th



March it was seen that the enemy had concentrated a large force in the Mory Valley with the intention of attacking Ervillers. To meet this attack the eastern outskirts of that village were held by the eight Vickers guns while the 4th Guards and 119th Brigades took up a position facing south between Ervillers and Mory, the 4th Guards Brigade nearest Mory, with their left thrown back and their right at the road junction nearest the bridge on the Ervillers road, the 119th Brigade extended from that point towards Ervillers. It was arranged that the Guards Brigade should not fire, unless attacked in flank, until the 119th Brigade opened heavy fire. The German attack commenced soon after dawn, their troops advancing south of the Ervillers-Mory road without attacking the left flank of the Guards Brigade. They were allowed to proceed until the main body was well into the valley, and the advanced parties nearly into Ervillers, when a heavy cross-fire was opened on them by the Vickers battery and the two Brigades, with the result that they were practically wiped out. Three German divisions had attacked Mory and Ervillers on March 23rd and 24th and had suffered very heavy losses.

The Ervillers position was, however, very weak, its safety depending on the holding of the Sensée switch and the Army line in that neighbourhood; and although a renewed German attack, supported by a large force of field artillery at close range, was repulsed during the afternoon of the 24th, a retirement soon afterwards became necessary. The fall of the Sensée Switch Line was reported at 4 p.m. on the 24th; the enemy then advanced up the St. Leger Valley in rear of the Ervillers position, and the withdrawal of the two Brigades commenced shortly afterwards. The 4th Guards Brigade moved back to the Ervillers-Arras road well north of Ervillers; while the 119th Brigade took up an entrenched position west of the same road and extending from the north end of Ervillers as far as the right of the Guards. In this position they delayed the enemy throughout the 25th of March and the night following, and it was not until the 26th that the Germans succeeded in forcing their way into Ervillers, where the 13th Battn. East Surrey had been concentrated to cover the withdrawal of the other battalions of the 119th Brigade. The remnants of the 119th Brigade then fell back north-west behind Hamélincourt and eventually found their way to Bucquoy, whence on the 27th March the 13th Battn. East Surrey marched three miles north to an entrenched position near Adinfer Wood.

Early on the 28th March the Battalion was ordered to Sombrin, twelve miles west of Arras, where it arrived at 11 a.m. and rested for the remainder of the day. On the 29th a further move was made to Hauvélin (ten miles south-west of Béthune), where the Battalion was billeted for the remainder of the month.

The great services of the 40th Division during March, 1918, were fully recognized. On the 30th March, H.M. The King visited the Division and was pleased to express his high appreciation of its gallant behaviour and bearing. The Commander of the Third Army, General the Hon. Sir Julian Byng, congratulated the Division on its conduct in the following words: "By their devotion and courage they have broken up overwhelming attacks and prevented

the enemy from gaining his object, viz. a decisive victory." The VI Corps Commander, too, in a letter to Major-General Ponsonby, said that he could not speak too highly of the Division. "They have made a magnificent defence, and, tired as they must be with so prolonged a struggle, have stood like a stone wall between my right and the Germans. All I can say is that I am deeply grateful and feel that they have nobly upheld the great fighting traditions of the British Army." In the report of the 40th Division on the operations of March 21st-26th the services of Lieut.-Colonel Warden received special mention for his gallant leading in the attack on Mory.

While the Battalion as a whole had thus won distinction, a special word must be said here regarding its transport and medical services. It was the proud tradition of the transport personnel that they never failed to deliver supplies and ammunition to their comrades in the fighting line, and this tradition they upheld under the circumstances of special difficulty in the operations about Mory. Though the companies changed their positions frequently, and the approach to them led over open ground often exposed to hostile observation and fire, the transport personnel showed a dogged determination which nothing could overcome. For instance, in the attack on Mory they succeeded, though driven back at one point by aimed machine-gun fire, in keeping the Battalion adequately supplied with ammunition. While all were bent on doing their utmost, Captain F. S. Beecroft, Sergt. Holmes, Cpl. Bull and Pte. Burrell were noted by their Commanding Officer as conspicuous. The stretcher-bearers of the Battalion, under Lieut. D. E. Berney, were no less devoted. During the attack on Mory it was found necessary to establish the Regimental Aid Post in a shallow trench, no other cover being available. Here Lieut. Berney attended to the wounded under fire and was himself hit by three machine-gun bullets. He had the distinction of being the first American to receive the British Military Cross.

The honours awarded for these operations, made known two months later, were as follows:—

Bar to Distinguished Service Order : Lieut.-Colonel H. L. Warden.

Military Cross : Captains F. S. Beecroft, F. S. Ainger (Adjutant) and J. E. M. Crowther; Lieuts. H. W. Allason and D. E. Berney (Medical Officer, U.S. Army); 2nd Lieut. G. R. Tarry and Company Sergt.-Major R. Reed.

Distinguished Conduct Medal : Regtl. Sergt.-Major J. A. Lee; Ptes. W. Warman, J. Geary and F. Eyles.

Military Medal : Sergt. T. Wakem; Ptes. W. Balcombe and W. G. Gardner.

Considering the severity of the fighting about Mory from the 21st to 26th March, the Battalion was fortunate in having only one officer killed, Lieut. W. V. L. Mallett, a fine soldier. The following officers were wounded; Captains O. G. Norman, R. W. H. King and J. E. M. Crowther; Lieuts. A. G. J. Altman and D. E. Berney (Medical Officer, U.S. Army); 2nd Lieuts. G. R. Tarry, F. A. Simmonds, H. M. S. Bailey and S. Skidmore. The total casualties during

the month, practically all of which were sustained in the Mory operations, were:—

<i>Killed.</i>	Officers	1	Other ranks	17
<i>Wounded.</i>	„	9	„	139
<i>Missing.</i>	„	0	„	52
Total:		<u>10</u>		<u>208</u>

Notwithstanding the losses, the strength of the Battalion on the 31st of March was about 800 of all ranks.

The 40th Division was now under orders to move into the Lys Valley area, to take over the right sector of the XV Corps about Fleurbaix. Accordingly, on the 1st April, the 13th Battn. East Surrey entrained at Barlin for Neuf Berquin, the transport moving by road via Lillers. On the 2nd April the Battalion marched to Le Nouveau Monde, near Estaires, where it went into billets in Divisional Reserve. Here it remained till the 6th April, when it relieved the 14th Battn. H.L.I. in the left sub-sector of the Fleurbaix sector. A and C Companies were in front line at Foray Post and Croix-Maréchal; the other two were in support. On the same day Lieut.-Colonel Warden was admitted to hospital and handed over command to Major W. G. West. The 7th and 8th were quiet except for occasional gas-shelling, but the Germans were preparing to reopen their great offensive by an attack on the Allied lines in the Lys Valley.

About 4 a.m. on April 9th the enemy opened the Battle of Estaires, the first of the Battles of the Lys, by a violent bombardment with gas-shells on the British front line from Lens to Armentières. Some three hours later his infantry attacked in a thick fog the right sub-sector Fleurbaix, held by the 18th Battn. Welch Regt., of the 119th Brigade. At 7.10 a.m. the 119th Brigade reported the development of the enemy's attack, which had broken through the right sub-sector front in two places, notwithstanding which the Welshmen were still fighting stoutly. Beyond them to their right, however, the 2nd Portuguese Division, which had suffered severely in previous fighting had completely given way. It now became clear that the Germans were attacking on a front which extended from the La Bassée Canal to Bois Grenier, east of Fleurbaix. Through the large gap formed by the retirement of the 2nd Portuguese Division the German infantry poured in great strength, and with such rapidity that the 120th Brigade, which had been ordered up in support of the 119th, had no time to reach its intended position.

So far no attack had been delivered on the left sub-sector, Fleurbaix, held by the 13th Battn. East Surrey; but about 8.30 a.m. the enemy, having occupied the forward posts of the right sub-sector, proceeded to attack northwards in the direction of Fleurbaix. As a result of this movement, the support trenches of the Battalion were suddenly attacked about 9 a.m. from the right and rear, and very soon the whole Battalion was surrounded.

The pressure of the enemy from the south now forced the 40th Division into a position facing south from Bois Grenier through Fleurbaix to Saily-sur-Lys. The few East Surrey men, who succeeded in fighting their way back from

the left sub-sector, took up a position near the last-named village and later were withdrawn across the River Lys into reserve at Le Petit Mortier, where they came under the command of Lieut.-Colonel W. E. Brown, of the 18th Battn. Welch Regt. Meanwhile the transport and details of the 13th Battn. East Surrey had arrived after 5 p.m. at La Couronne, whence all available men of the details, numbering 150, marched to join the remnants of the Battalion, which they found at Le Petit Mortier.

The casualties on the 9th April were:—

Killed : Captain G. Beaumont, M.C.; Lieuts. J. E. M. Michelmores and R. H. T. Peacock; 2nd Lieuts. E. Jordan and H. J. Smith and 7 other ranks.

Wounded : 2nd Lieut. A. C. Cowlin and 80 other ranks.

Missing : Major W. G. West; Captains F. S. Ainger (Adjutant), W. G. Price, C. E. Linge and A. B. Burton; Lieuts. R. R. Webb, L. W. Pinnick, H. W. Allason and F. Pedrick (R.A.M.C.); 2nd Lieuts. H. Buck, W. B. Parker, J. A. V. Cant and H. E. Blatch and 437 other ranks.

Early in the afternoon of the 9th April the right of the 40th Division had withdrawn across the river at Bac St. Maur, closely followed by the enemy, who pushed on to Croix-du-Bac. He was checked at this hamlet by a night counter-attack of a brigade of the 25th Division, but nevertheless succeeded in gaining a firm footing during the night of the 9th/10th April on the north bank of the Lys in this neighbourhood.

During the 10th and 11th the 119th Brigade, which, owing to the severe losses of its three units was now fighting as a Battalion, held positions to the north of Douliu and Le Verrier. During the morning of the 11th the enemy delivered three attacks which were driven off, and at 7.30 p.m. the 31st Division carried out a counter-attack in this locality and recaptured Le Verrier and La Becque. The 119th Brigade was thus relieved and withdrawn early on the 12th April northwards to Strazeele, where in the afternoon it dug itself in in front of the village. It remained at Strazeele till 3 p.m. on the 13th, when it was again relieved and rejoined its transport at Hondeghem (near Hazebrouck), where Lieut.-Colonel Warden resumed command. At Hondeghem the Battalion had a hot meal, after which it marched to billets at Staple.

The 40th Division having now been withdrawn from the line to refit, the 119th Brigade marched on the 14th April via Arques and St. Omer to billets at Tilques. On the 15th the Battalion moved to billets at Mouille, where it remained till April 21st, when the Brigade moved to Boisdingham. On the 26th the Battalion was billeted at La Wattine, and on April 30th the Brigade moved to Nieurlet.

The casualties in the Battle of Estaires, which amounted to 19 officers and 524 other ranks, had reduced the Battalion to a strength of less than 200 of all ranks. In order to bring it up to its establishment it received, while in the St. Omer area, numerous drafts of young soldiers who had just landed from England. These drafts were from different regiments, and time was needed for the Battalion to absorb them and regain its efficiency as a fighting unit.

On May 1st the Battalion marched to Oudezeele, near Cassel, but returned

on the following day to Nieurlet, where Captain G. E. Deacon was appointed as Adjutant vice Captain Ainger, prisoner of war. It was now decided, owing to the large number of young soldiers in the ranks and the insufficiency of experienced officers and N.C.O.'s for their speedy training, that the Battalion should be reduced temporarily to a training staff. Accordingly, on the 5th May, 447 other ranks, which number included most of the survivors of the Battle of Estaires, left under charge of an officer for Calais, there to rejoin their Base depots and to be redrafted to other regiments in due course. The same day Lieut.-Colonel Warden proceeded on leave to England, and Captain F. S. Beecroft assumed command of the training staff, which moved to Queue D'Oxelaere, near Cassel, on May 11th. On the 18th May the Battalion training staff marched to a camp at La Belle Hôtesse, south-east of Hazebrouck. Lieut.-Colonel Warden returned from leave on the 23rd and took over command of A Section, 40th Division, and on the 30th resumed command of the Battalion, which had then moved to Les Trois Rois, near Cassel. On May 29th the following awards of the Military Cross for gallant conduct in the Lys Battles were notified: Captain H. S. Daintree; 2nd Lieuts. F. N. Corben, C. F. Wilks and W. T. H. Sewell.

On June 3rd the Battalion Training Staff went by train to Rinxent, near Boulogne, whence it marched to Hardinghem on transfer to the 102nd Infantry Brigade, 34th Division. On the 11th it was transferred to the 101st Brigade at Bayenghem. Here it was joined on June 13th by the 1st and 3rd Battalions 310th American Regiment, which it was to instruct. The 310th Regiment was inspected by Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig on June 15th, and on the following day training commenced. It continued for a fortnight and was marked by the greatest cordiality between the American and British troops of all ranks. On the 17th, Company Sergt.-Majors G. E. Nightingale and M. S. Treany were awarded the Meritorious Medal.

On June 27th the training staff, now consisting of 9 officers and 47 other ranks, received orders of readiness to proceed to England, as it was intended to raise the 13th Battn. East Surrey to the establishment of a Battalion of the 25th Division. The Battalion training staff consequently moved to Boulogne on June 29th, and crossed over to England on June 30th, arriving at Aldershot in the evening. It was accommodated in U.S.A. Camp, Mytchett, near Frimley.

On July 1st the Battalion training staff was informed that the men required to form the Battalion were not yet available, and many of the staff were granted seven days' leave of absence.

On July 16th the Battalion training staff proceeded to Lowestoft, where a draft of 74 men from the 3rd and 5th Battalions had already arrived. By the 31st July, 306 more men had joined. Drill and training meanwhile had busily proceeded, so that at the end of the month the Battalion presented a business-like appearance and was about 500 strong. During August the Battalion was completed with officers and received frequent drafts which brought the strength of the 31st August up to 825, of whom, however, only 393 were passed fit for service overseas.

On September 7th a great disappointment fell upon the Battalion, a notification arriving from the 225th Infantry Brigade that the 13th Battn. East Surrey was to be disbanded. The men were rapidly drafted to other units, and on September 18th twenty-three officers left for France. By the last day of the month the Battalion had been reduced to 11 officers and 76 other ranks, the number allowed for the purpose of closing accounts and winding-up of the affairs of the Battalion.

As this business progressed, the numbers were further reduced to the Commanding Officer, Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant, Quartermaster and nine other ranks, who moved to Kingston-on-Thames towards the end of October, 1918, and handed over the Battalion documents to the Officer Commanding the Regimental Depot. Lieut.-Colonel Warden and the Quartermaster were ordered to join other units in France, and the Battalion officially ceased to exist on the 3rd November, 1918, the remaining details joining the 3rd Battalion in Scotland.

Though the youngest Battalion of the Regiment, and consequently with the shortest period of service in the field, the 13th Battalion had earned a lasting name for gallantry. In the capture of Villers-Plouich, at Bourlon and in stemming the Great German Offensive north of Bapaume, and later in the first of the Battles of the Lys, it had worthily upheld the great traditions of the Regiment to which it belonged.

Owing to the fact that the disbandment of the 13th Battn. East Surrey was completed before the date of the Armistice, it was not until the 16th July, 1921, that arrangements could be made for the presentation of the King's Colour.

On that date the ceremony took place on Wandsworth Common in the presence of the Mayor, Alderman T. E. Comins, J.P., and the members of the Borough Council. The former members of the Battalion who were present included Major R. S. Taylor; Captains L. I. Deacon, J. R. Hucker, M.C., G. E. Deacon, R. W. H. King, T. W. Hucker, M.C., and E. E. Dodd; Lieuts. F. W. Lanham, M.C., G. S. Savill, W. B. Parker, M.C., H. E. Blatch, C. J. de Beaurepaire and W. E. Dobb; Regtl. Sergt.-Major J. A. Lee, D.C.M., and 350 other ranks. A detachment from the Regimental Depot at Kingston-on-Thames also attended.

After the Consecration Service, Major-General Sir John R. Longley, K.C.M.G., C.B., Colonel of the Regiment, having presented the Colour to the Battalion, gave a brief account of the services of the Battalion. A speech by the Mayor, who spoke of the pride which the inhabitants of Wandsworth entertained for their local Battalion, brought the ceremony to a close. The Colour party then marched to the Parish Church in High Street, Wandsworth, and handed the King's Colour into the keeping of the Vicar.

It should be recorded that the 13th Battn. East Surrey wore a special badge which was authorized by the War Office shortly after the Battalion was first raised. In the special badge the Arms of Guildford on the central shield, borne on the star, were replaced by the Arms of Wandsworth, with the motto "We Serve" on a scroll beneath them.

SECTION III

AUGUST, 1918, TO NOVEMBER, 1918

THE ADVANCE TO VICTORY, 1918, INCLUDING THE BATTLE OF AMIENS, THE SECOND BATTLES OF THE SOMME, 1918, THE SECOND BATTLES OF ARRAS, 1918, THE BATTLES OF THE HINDENBURG LINE, THE BATTLE OF YPRES, 1918, THE BATTLE OF COURTRAI, THE BATTLE OF THE SELLE, THE BATTLE OF VALENCIENNES AND THE BATTLE OF THE SAMBRE. OPERATIONS IN SALONIKA AND MESOPOTAMIA. THE ARMISTICE.

CHAPTER XVI

AUGUST TO NOVEMBER, 1918 : THE 1ST BATTALION IN THE ADVANCE TO VICTORY ; IN ACTION NEAR ACHIET-LE-PETIT AND IRLES IN THE BATTLE OF ALBERT, 1918 ; AT FAVREUIL AND FREMICOURT IN THE SECOND BATTLE OF BAPAUME ; IN THE LINE NEAR HAVRINCOURT ; IN ACTION AT BEAUCAMP IN THE BATTLE OF THE CANAL DU NORD ; NEAR BRIASTRE IN THE BATTLE OF THE SELLE ; THE ADVANCE THROUGH THE FORET DE MORMAL TO PONT-SUR-SAMBRE AND ST. REMI-MAL-BATI IN THE BATTLE OF THE SAMBRE ; THE BATTALION WITHDRAWN TO LE QUESNOY ; THE ARMISTICE.

THE 1st Battn. East Surrey remained in the line about Arrewage, between the Forêt de Nieppe and Merville, until August 4th, when a warning order was received that the 5th Division was to be relieved by the 61st Division. When relieved on the following morning, the Battalion withdrew to Thiennes, whence it marched on the 6th August to billets at Racquinghem, five miles south-east of St. Omer. At Racquinghem it lay very comfortably for a week, the weather being fine and the country excellent for training.

The destination of the 5th Division was kept strictly secret and many rumours were prevalent until, on August 13th, warning was received that the Division was to move into the Third Army area about Doullens and to remain in G.H.Q. Reserve under twenty-four hours' notice to move. Accordingly the 1st Battn. East Surrey entrained at Wizernes on the 14th August and, detraining at Doullens, marched to Barly, where it went into billets. At Barly the general health of the Battalion continued to show the improvement which had begun on August 5th, when it left the Forêt de Nieppe, where everyone had been suffering more or less from the great quantity of gas projected by the enemy.

On August 17th an order was received to be prepared to move at short notice, and on the evening following the Battalion marched to Doullens, where the 95th Brigade was accommodated in the Citadelle. On the 19th August the Brigade marched twelve miles eastward to the Coigneux area, the 1st Battn. East Surrey reaching its destination, Coigneux village, at 5 a.m. next day. Three hours later the Commanding Officers went forward and met the Brigadier near the Bois du Biez, one mile west of Bucquoy, a village situated half-way between Arras and Albert. The 5th Division had now been posted to the IV Corps of the Third Army.

The operations in which the 5th Division was presently to take part were the sequel of the successful issue of the Battle of Amiens, fought between the 8th and 11th August, which had freed the town and its important railway centre from the German menace. The general scheme of the forthcoming operations was that a limited attack should be made on the 21st August east and south-east

of Bucquoy, to gain the line of the Arras-Albert railway, as a prelude to a more extended attack by the Third and Fourth Armies on the 23rd August.

The greatest secrecy had been maintained with regard to the operations, and it was not until 3 p.m. on the 20th August that the preliminary Brigade Orders were received by the Battalion. These Orders were to the following effect:—

- (i) The Third Army was to press the enemy back towards Bapaume and to make every effort to prevent him destroying road and railway communications. The IV and VI Corps were to exploit the success by pushing through to the line Irles-Bihucourt-Gomicourt railway northwards to Arras.
- (ii) The initial attack on the IV Corps' front was to be made by the 37th Division. The 5th Division on the right and the 63rd on the left were then to pass through and attack further objectives. The New Zealand Division was to advance in touch with the 5th Division.
- (iii) In the 5th Division, the 95th Brigade was to attack on the right, with the 15th Brigade on its left.
- (iv) In the 95th Brigade, the 1st Battn. Devon Regt. was to attack on the right and the 1st Battn. East Surrey on the left, with the D.C.L.I. in support and the Gloucester Regt. in reserve: the attacking battalions having two companies in first line, one in support and one in reserve.

Sandbags, flares, grenades and extra ammunition having been issued during the afternoon, the 1st Battn. East Surrey marched out of Coigneux at 8.30 p.m. on the 20th August, and was led to the Bois du Biez by guides furnished by the New Zealand Division. From the Bois du Biez guides of the 37th Division took them on to their assembly positions in Keane Trench. All the companies were in position by 3 a.m. on the 21st August, the night being fortunately very quiet with but little shelling.

At 4.55 a.m. the British artillery barrage opened with such intensity that, except in isolated posts, the enemy's machine guns hardly inconvenienced the subsequent advance. A Company, under Captain G. G. C. Niven, and C Company, under Captain E. Newington, left their trenches and moved forward in the wake of the attacking battalions of the 37th Division. Four minutes later B Company, under 2nd Lieut. J. R. Wilson, advanced in support followed after a similar interval by D Company, under Captain B. H. Geary.

A heavy mist hung over the battlefield, and great difficulty was experienced in keeping direction and distance. However, by dint of steering with the compass, the Battalion, passing about a mile to the south of Bucquoy, found itself within an hour in the position just captured by the 37th Division. There the latter stood fast, while the East Surrey companies reorganized for the further advance.

Half an hour later, viz. about 6.30 a.m., the British barrage again moved forward, followed by the infantry of the 5th Division and Tanks. The mist still obscured all except the immediate surroundings, but was on the whole in favour

of the attacking troops, provided they kept direction. The enemy was still putting up a stout resistance, but the 1st Battn. East Surrey made steady progress and captured a number of prisoners. Suddenly, at 11 a.m., the mist lifted and brilliant sunshine disclosed the whole situation. From Battalion Headquarters, Tanks were visible on the spur on which stood Achiet-le-Petit, and the leading infantry could be seen working round the south of that village.

At noon, Lieut. F. P. J. Glover, the Battalion Intelligence Officer, returned to Battalion Headquarters and reported that six platoons had reached a line just short of their objective, the Arras-Albert railway north of Irles, that the enemy was still offering a stiff resistance, and that a further advance without the aid of artillery or fresh Tanks would be difficult. Most of the Tanks allotted to the Division had by this time broken down or been wrecked, and the enemy was now beyond the range of the British field guns. At dusk strong patrols were pushed forward to the railway, but found it strongly held, and though they reached the embankment they could not establish themselves thereon. The patrols were therefore withdrawn, and the Battalion threw out an outpost line for the night just short of the railway. During the day it had captured 70 prisoners, 9 machine guns, 3 trench mortars and 1 field gun.

Casualties were relatively light. Captain B. H. Geary, V.C., Lieuts. A. L. Jones, M.C., and A. W. Reed and 2nd Lieut. J. A. Lasbrey were wounded, while thirty other ranks were killed or wounded. Lieut. A. L. Jones, who belonged to the 6th Battn. East Surrey, had recently been attached to the 1st Battalion. He had previously served with the 12th Battn. K.R.R.C., and in that battalion had earned the Military Cross for his services in the Battle of Langemarck in August, 1917.

Next morning the enemy's artillery and machine guns were active, and it became evident that if any further advance had been made on the previous evening without artillery support, it would have proved very costly. About 9 a.m. the Germans attempted a counter-attack on the right of the 5th Division, and advanced in considerable strength through the valley west of Irles. This advance, unobserved apparently elsewhere, was seen from the Battalion observation post and was reported by pigeon to Corps Headquarters. Shortly afterwards the British artillery opened fire and completely broke up the enemy's formation. His disorderly retirement which followed was watched from Battalion Headquarters, which had been moved forward to a point giving better observation. It was noticed that the enemy was rallying on the railway, where it was clear that he was in considerable strength. This again was reported by pigeon, and in less than forty minutes the British heavy artillery opened a heavy bombardment on the target indicated, with the result that the enemy was seen to disperse rapidly.

Meanwhile on the same date, the 22nd August, further to the south, the III Corps of the Fourth Army had forced the line of the River Ancre and captured Albert, thus bringing the left of the Fourth Army forward into line with the Third Army and completing the preliminaries to the main operation of the 23rd August. This main operation was to take the form of a series of

strong attacks on the whole front of thirty-three miles from the British right, where it joined the French near Chaulnes, as far north as Mercatel, four miles south of Arras.

During the night of the 22nd/23rd the 1st Battn. East Surrey was re-organized and its trenches were improved; battle equipment was replenished and all preparations were made for a further advance. Orders were received at midnight that the 5th Division would resume the offensive in the morning and capture a line of trenches 1000 yards in front, the 15th Brigade attacking on the right and the 95th on the left. In the 95th Brigade the 12th Battn. Gloucester Regt. was to advance on the right with Irles as its objective, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey on its left.

At 11 o'clock on the 23rd August the artillery barrage commenced and the Battalion advanced, B and C Companies leading, with D in support and A in reserve. The companies made rapid progress and soon reached the railway embankment, from which they drove back the enemy. A little later, B Company encountered strong opposition from a trench across its line of advance and was checked. Its rifles and Lewis guns, however, quickly established superiority of fire and, led by Lieut. Glover and 2nd Lieut. Wilson, the company rushed the trench and after a stiff bayonet fight overcame its numerous defenders. Nineteen machine guns were found in the trench, which was full of German dead.

By 11.35 a.m. the objective on the spur north-east of Irles had been taken and the companies were consolidating the captured trenches. It was a remarkable achievement, and one that will be remembered with pride in the Regiment. In a little more than half an hour of hard fighting the Battalion had driven the enemy back 1000 yards and had captured 200 prisoners and 25 machine guns.

While the companies were consolidating they were heavily sniped from the direction of Irles, and Lieut.-Colonel Minogue ascertained by reconnaissance that the village was still in the hands of the enemy. Later in the day the Gloucesters organized another attack and captured it.

The losses of the 1st Battn. East Surrey this day were not heavy considering the opposition encountered and the success achieved. 2nd Lieuts. F. L. Hartley (3rd Battn. attd.) and H. B. Roe and 15 other ranks were killed; while Lieuts. W. J. A. Davies and A. E. Thornthwaite (3rd Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. attd.) and 35 other ranks were wounded.

At 6 p.m. the 13th Brigade passed through the 95th under a heavy barrage, in order to exploit the success of the morning's attack, and succeeded in establishing itself on the plateau on which stood Loupart Wood, which they cleared on the 24th August with the assistance of the New Zealand Division. By the evening of the 24th the IV Corps front had been advanced as far as Avesnes-les-Bapaume and Biefvillers.

By this time the British advance in Picardy had developed into a series of attacks delivered in quick succession. It was recognized that the enemy was retreating and his rearguards were allowed no breathing space. It began to be evident also that the fighting qualities of the German infantry had begun to deteriorate.

On the 25th August, therefore, the 37th Division followed up its advantage and by evening had captured Favreuil, a mile north of Bapaume; while further north the 2nd Division of the VI Corps had taken the villages of Sapignies and Béhagnies.

Meanwhile the 95th Brigade had been allowed to remain in the trenches near Irles, resting after the strain of the two stiff fights which had carried it forward to that locality. On the 25th August it again moved forward and occupied some trenches a mile north of Loupart Wood. Here it remained till the 28th as support to the 13th Brigade, which was holding a line near Favreuil.

Early on the 29th August the Germans evacuated Bapaume, which was quickly occupied by the New Zealand Division. The same day the 95th Brigade relieved the 13th in its position near Favreuil and received orders for an advance on the following morning, when the Devons and D.C.L.I. were to be the attacking battalions. The 1st Bttn. East Surrey moved up as support to them into a position north-east of the village.

The attack commenced at 4.45 a.m. on August 30th, and the East Surrey companies were advancing to occupy the assembly trenches vacated by the attacking battalions when their orders were suddenly cancelled, as it was found that the Division on the left was not to advance beyond its first objective. Fresh orders were then received, as the result of which B and C Companies occupied the assembly trenches, while A and D Companies were diverted to form a defensive flank on the left of the Brigade about a mile south of Vaulx-Vraucourt. The Battalion's casualties on this day were very slight.

On the 31st August, the first day of the operations, now officially styled the Second Battle of Bapaume, the Germans counter-attacked with the aid of Tanks, their main effort being directed against the New Zealand Division. B Company, of the 1st Bttn. East Surrey, found itself, however, on the fringe of the attack and used its rifles and Lewis guns to good effect in assisting to repel it, capturing over fifty prisoners. During the night A and D Companies were brought south and relieved companies of the D.C.L.I., who had suffered heavy loss on the 30th, in the line in front of C and B Companies. The latter remained in their position and became support and reserve respectively. Lieut. G. Kramer (5th Bttn. attd.), who had joined the Battalion as recently as the 25th, was killed during this relief.

The casualties during August had amounted to 3 officers and 40 other ranks killed, 7 officers and 222 other ranks wounded and 16 other ranks missing.

On the 1st September the New Zealand Division was to attack the Frémicourt ridge, two miles east of Bapaume, and the 1st Bttn. East Surrey was ordered to capture a trench just south of the point beyond Frémicourt, where the railway crosses the Bapaume-Cambrai road, and to gain touch with the New Zealanders' left. This task was successfully carried out by B Company, who took the trench together with 17 prisoners and 5 machine guns, having itself a few casualties, which included 2nd Lieut. W. Butler wounded. The enemy's artillery was particularly active throughout the day.

That night the 95th Brigade, after being relieved by the 15th Brigade, which

170 COMMENCEMENT OF BATTLES OF HINDENBURG LINE

was to carry on the attack along the railway, returned to the neighbourhood of Favreuil, where the 1st Battn. East Surrey was accommodated in huts and trenches. Next day, the 2nd September, eleven officers joined, none of whom had served previously with the Battalion. The night was a disturbed one, owing to the activity of the enemy's bombing planes, but the Battalion was fortunate in having no casualties. The complete absence of hostile artillery fire, coupled with the aircraft attacks, led to the conclusion that the enemy was withdrawing his guns. This proved to be the case, and during the afternoon of the 3rd September the 95th Brigade moved forward to a point near Frémicourt, where positions were taken up and all ranks were got under cover from air attack. By this time the 13th Brigade had advanced as far as Bertincourt, when it became known that the 37th Division would relieve the 5th Division, in order that the latter might have a period of rest behind the line.

The 95th Brigade was accordingly withdrawn on the 4th September to Biefvillers. The 1st Battn. East Surrey was allotted an old camping ground, where, as the weather was fine and an unlimited supply of corrugated iron was available, the men soon made themselves fairly comfortable. No move took place for ten days, which afforded time for reorganization and recovery from the stress of battle. The "Dumped Personnel," i.e. those officers and other ranks who had been left behind in readiness to replace casualties in the fighting portion of the Battalion, rejoined it at Biefvillers. The Divisional Commander came to see it on the 4th and congratulated Lieut.-Colonel Minogue on its fine work during the past fortnight.

When the 5th Division's period of rest came to an end on September 13th, it commenced to relieve the New Zealand Division. On the following day the 95th Brigade was placed in support of the 13th Brigade, which was in the front line near Havrincourt, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey marched via Bertincourt and occupied a series of trenches near Neuville, about half a mile to the southwest of Havrincourt Wood.

While the 5th Division had been out of the line the enemy's retreat on the whole front of the Third Army had been rapid, and by the night of September 8th his line had been withdrawn to Havrincourt, his main line of resistance north of that village being the Canal du Nord, and south of it the Hindenburg Line, which ran south-eastwards to the canalized upper waters of the Scheldt at Banteux, nine miles south of Cambrai.

On the 12th September the IV and VI Corps had attacked in the Havrincourt area and had captured that village and Trescault, about a mile to the south of it.

There were indications on the 15th September that the Germans intended to counter-attack with two fresh divisions, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey Regt. was placed under the orders of the 13th Brigade. The expected attack, however, was not delivered, and these orders were cancelled next day. On the 20th the 95th Brigade took over the Divisional front, and the Battalion relieved the 1st Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. in the right sector from Queen's Cross to Deadman's Corner, about a mile north-west of Gouzeaucourt (see map opposite page 46).

No casualties occurred during the relief, but after midnight the enemy's guns were active, and eight men were wounded. The Battalion remained in the line till the 25th September, when, on relief by the Royal West Kent Regt., it withdrew to the trenches near Neuville. The casualties during the tour of duty had been 6 men killed and 2nd Lieut. A. H. Chilcott and 25 men wounded.

On September 27th the Third and First Armies attacked in the direction of Cambrai on a front which extended from Gouzeaucourt northwards to the vicinity of the La Sensée River. The task of the 5th Division in this operation was to capture Beaucamp and Highland ridges and, if the troops to the north met with success in their intended advance on Marcoing, to form a protective flank for them on Welsh Ridge, which lay to the east of Villers-Plouich.

In accordance with the above programme, the 1st Battrn. East Surrey left Neuville at 10 a.m. and joined the 95th Brigade, which was concentrated in Winchester Valley, south of Havrincourt Wood, as Divisional Reserve. During the forenoon the 13th and 15th Brigades attacked the enemy's position on Beaucamp Ridge, but met with less success than was hoped for, and consequently the 95th Brigade was not called upon to advance. At 11 p.m., however, it received orders to renew, in the early hours of the next morning, the attack on the position on Beaucamp Ridge, which had withstood the assaults of the 13th and 15th Brigades. In the forthcoming advance the 1st Battrn. East Surrey was to attack on the right with the Devons on its left and the D.C.L.I. and Gloucesters in support and reserve respectively.

The 1st Battrn. East Surrey left Winchester Valley at 1 a.m. on September 28th. No guides were available; the night was very dark and the enemy's harassing fire incessant. It was therefore with the greatest difficulty and with little time to spare that the companies reached their assembly positions just west of the village of Beaucamp, though the 1st Battrn. Cheshire Regt., which was holding the line, gave every assistance.

Zero was fixed for 2.40 a.m. on September 28th, and at that hour the creeping barrage came down with great violence. A and C Companies led the attack with B Company in support. They encountered a stiff resistance, but in the darkness the enemy's musketry fire was ineffective, and as the companies pressed forward the Germans gave way and African Trench, on Beaucamp Ridge, was successfully occupied.

Later in the morning the Battalion was ordered to push forward to Welsh Ridge. The advance was slow, as the enemy continued to hold out in isolated machine-gun posts, each of which had to be attacked separately; but by 6 p.m. Surrey Road, a name which recalls the capture of Villers-Plouich by the 13th Battrn. in April, 1917, was reached.

The day's work had been a fine achievement. With a loss of 25 men only, the 1st Battrn. East Surrey had pushed back the Germans a mile and a half, and besides killing many had captured 25 prisoners, 3 field guns, 6 trench mortars and 40 machine guns.

The advance of the Battalion had been greatly facilitated by two newly devised methods of bringing up small-arm ammunition and other stores. Firstly,

three Tanks were attached to the Division and were used to carry forward stores. Secondly, arrangements had been made with the 59th Squadron R.A.F. to take forward ammunition and to drop it as required by means of parachutes. This method was found to be most satisfactory, as in nearly every case the ammunition was supplied within half an hour from the time it was demanded.

That night the D.C.L.I. passed through the 1st Battn. East Surrey, and took up an assembly position with the Gloucesters on their right for a further advance next day. This advance commenced at 3.30 a.m. on the 30th September in the direction of the sunken road which runs from La Vacquerie to Gonnellieu, with the result that the enemy evacuated the latter village and Villers Guislain and retired across the Scheldt Canal. The same day the 5th Division was relieved in the line by the 37th Division, and the 95th Brigade withdrew to the Metz area near the southern edge of Havrincourt Wood.

During the afternoon of October 1st the 95th Brigade moved west to the Bertincourt area, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey found comfortable quarters in huts near that village. There it remained for eight days, undergoing special training. At this time, consequent on the reorganization of brigades on a three-battalion basis, the 12th Battn. Gloucester Regt. was disbanded, a detachment of 75 other ranks being drafted from it to the 1st Battn. East Surrey. Six officers joined the Battalion at Bertincourt, including Major G. R. P. Roupell and Captain G. W. Kennedy.

The following officers were awarded decorations for conspicuous service in the operations of August and September:—

Bar to Military Cross: Lieut. F. P. J. Glover.

Military Cross: Captain C. L. G. Powell (R.A.M.C.); the Rev. E. J. Sandford, M.A., A.C.D.; Captain A. E. Cottam; Lieuts. J. P. Brown, A. J. T. Eccles and J. R. Wilson.

The 5th Division moved east again early on October 9th, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey found accommodation for the night in the Hindenburg Support Line near Gouzeaucourt, whence Cambrai could be seen burning in several places. During the absence of the Division from the front line the Third Army had made a considerable advance. Following on the successful issue of the Battle of the Beaurevoir Line, fought on the 3rd to 5th October, in which the Hindenburg Line east of the Scheldt Canal had fallen into the hands of the Allies, the campaign had entered on a new phase, as only natural obstacles now lay between the British troops and the threatened German communications about Maubeuge. Pressing forward, the Third and Fourth Armies fought the Battle of Cambrai, 1918, on the 8th and 9th October and by nightfall of the latter date Cambrai had been captured and the front line ran thence south-east past the south of Caudry to the immediate vicinity of Le Cateau. The operations of the next three days revealed the fact that the Germans were preparing to make a stand behind the River Selle, which flows north through Le Cateau and Solesmes.

On October 10th the 95th Brigade continued its march via Banteux, where it crossed the Scheldt Canal, and thence continued north-east to a bivouac in a field near Esnes. Though sufficient billets were available in that village, it was

decided not to use them, as the Germans had arranged several traps before their departure. Next day the Brigade moved to Béthencourt, a mile north-east of Caudry. The 1st Battn. East Surrey remained in billets at Béthencourt for eight days while preparations were being made for the forcing of the Selle River position.

These operations commenced on October 17th, when the Fourth Army attacked from Le Cateau southwards and by nightfall on the 19th had driven the enemy across the Sambre-et-Oise Canal from Catillon southwards. It was now the turn of the Third Army to prolong the attack north of Le Cateau, as far as Haspres. The IV Corps, in the right centre of the Third Army, was to attack in the neighbourhood of Solesmes, with the 42nd Division on the left and the 5th Division on the right, the 17th Division being to the right of the 5th. The 13th and 95th Brigades were to lead the 5th Division.

During the evening of the 19th October the 1st Battn. East Surrey moved forward to its assembly positions 150 yards east of the River Selle and about half a mile south-east of Briastre, which village lies a mile south of Solesmes. In this advance Lieut. A. J. Gillies, Medical Officer of the United States Army, who was attached to the Battalion and had recently been awarded the Military Cross, was wounded. A drizzling rain fell from 7 p.m. till dawn, making the ground sodden and slippery.

At 2 a.m. on October 20th the 13th Brigade, which was close in front of the 95th, advanced under a creeping barrage and captured the railway line which ran parallel to and nearly half a mile distant from the river. At 2.30 a.m. the 95th Brigade, which had followed up, passed through the 13th Brigade to attack the second and third objectives, the former being a long and narrow ridge parallel to and about 2000 yards beyond the railway. This ridge ended in a spur overlooking Solesmes from the south-east. The 95th Brigade had the Devons and 1st Battn. East Surrey in the front line, the latter battalion being on the right with a frontage of about 400 yards; B and C Companies were leading, with D in support and A in reserve. The D.C.L.I. were the reserve battalion.

Although the enemy had held the railway in considerable strength, judging by the number of his dead afterwards found there, he did not offer much resistance when the 95th Brigade advanced beyond it, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey quickly disposed of the parties of Germans met with, capturing some machine guns and trench mortars, and gaining its objective on the ridge with slight casualties. Here the leading companies were ordered to halt, a defensive flank was thrown out to the right, and A and D Companies were brought up in readiness to lead the advance to the third objective, which was a hill about 1000 yards further on.

At 7 a.m. the advance was resumed under a light barrage. A and D, the leading companies, after advancing 200 or 300 yards, encountered a heavy fire from some strong machine-gun posts on the sunken road which runs from Solesmes to Forest, in the valley between the ridge and the hill. Their advance was checked, and as both flanks were in the air and there was no available cover, the order was given to them to withdraw to the ridge. By this time the enemy's

174 THE FINAL OBJECTIVE ON SELLE BATTLEFIELD REACHED

artillery had found the Battalion's position, and it suffered several casualties from the fire which was concentrated on the cross-roads close to the centre of its line on the reverse slope of the ridge.

Arrangements were now made for the British heavy and field artillery to engage the machine-gun posts in the sunken road, which had been fairly accurately located, and orders were issued for all four companies to attack together under a creeping barrage at 4 p.m. This attack, supported by troops on both flanks, was most successfully carried through, the men advancing with great dash and determination, in spite of their fatigue and the slippery state of the ground. The enemy offered little resistance; fifty prisoners were captured in the valley, and the hill beyond was occupied. The German artillery had caused some casualties during the advance, and its intermittent fire, very heavy at times, continued until after dark. The captured position was consolidated and patrols were sent out which, however, did not come in touch with the enemy. For conspicuous gallantry and leadership in this day's fighting, Lieut. J. A. Imison (5th Battn. attd.) was afterwards awarded a bar to the Military Cross which he had gained while attached to the London Regt.

During the first advance in the valley 2nd Lieut. R. Davy had been severely wounded and, being unable to move, lay out in front when the companies fell back. Two gallant but unsuccessful attempts were made to bring him in, the would-be rescuers suffering casualties on each occasion. A private whose name has unfortunately not been recorded, however, lay out with 2nd Lieut. Davy tending him under fire until a stretcher-party came for him some hours later. Unfortunately, 2nd Lieut. Davy, who throughout the day had set a very fine example to his men, was killed by a shell while being carried back to the dressing station. This private was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for devotion and courage.

The casualties of the Battalion on the 20th October were:—

Killed or mortally wounded: Lieut. H. H. Hawes; 2nd Lieuts. R. Davy (3rd Battn. attd.) and J. G. Law and 24 other ranks.

Wounded: Captain W. E. Crouch, M.C.; 2nd Lieut. W. G. Sutton and 39 other ranks.

The following morning was quiet except for occasional shelling, and the companies were able to continue strengthening their position. In the afternoon the enemy put down a harassing fire on the captured positions east of the River Selle, but did little damage. After dark the D.C.L.I. took over the Brigade front and the Devons and East Surreys were withdrawn into support near the River Selle south of Briastre. The casualties during the day were 2nd Lieuts. C. P. Clement and A. W. Marslen and five other ranks wounded.

During the forenoon of the 22nd October the enemy again put down a heavy but ineffective bombardment, and after dusk the 95th Brigade was relieved and withdrew to Béthencourt, where it remained for close upon a fortnight. On the 27th October the following message was received by the 95th Brigade from Major-General Ponsonby, Commanding the 5th Division: "Please convey to all ranks of the battalions under your command my sincere thanks and

admiration for their gallant conduct during the recent operations. The gallant advance of the 1st Battn. East Surrey Regt. and the 1st Battn. Devon Regt. to their final objective is worthy of the best tradition of the Regiments." Two days later Lieut.-Colonel Minogue went on short leave to Paris, and Major G. R. P. Roupell took over command of the Battalion.

Meanwhile, by the 27th October, the leading troops of the Third Army had advanced to the western outskirts of Le Quesnoy, and the situation of the German armies generally, after their rapid succession of defeats, was becoming desperate. The resistance of the Turks, Bulgarians and Austrians had already collapsed or was on the point of doing so, and the British Armies in Northern France were now in a position to deal a blow which, if successful, must bring the War to a conclusion.

The 95th Brigade left Bèthencourt on the 3rd November and marched to Salesches, a village three miles to the west of the Forêt de Mormal. Soon after dawn next morning the First, Third and Fourth Armies attacked on a thirty-mile front extending from Valenciennes southwards to beyond Le Cateau. On the front of the IV Corps, after a German counter-attack near Ghissignies had been repulsed with heavy loss, the 37th Division took Louvignies and Jolimetz and in the evening advanced some distance into the Forêt de Mormal.

The same afternoon the 95th Brigade had been brought forward to Louvignies, where the 1st Battn. East Surrey arrived shortly before dark and went into billets. A warning order was received that the Battalion must be prepared for an early start, as the 5th Division was about to pass through the 37th Division. As it was not known how far the latter Division had penetrated into the forest, assembly positions were selected for the 95th Brigade on the western edge of the wood near Jolimetz, those for the D.C.L.I. being on the left of those for the 1st Battn. East Surrey. In the latter Battalion, D Company (Captain G. G. C. Niven) and C Company (Captain G. W. Kennedy) were in front line, the former on the right. A Company (2nd Lieut. G. Newton) was in support, and B Company (Captain W. E. Crouch) in reserve.

At 5.30 on November 5th the Battalion left its assembly position and advanced about due east into the forest with the intention of overtaking the 8th Battn. Somerset L.I., the unit of the 37th Division through which it was ordered to pass. A message from that battalion to the effect that it had reached its objective and had cleared the intervening portion of the forest was received at the East Surrey Headquarters too late to be communicated at once to the leading companies, and valuable time was consequently lost by them in working through the thick undergrowth instead of using the rides. By 8 a.m., however, both C and D Companies had passed through the Somerset L.I. and had reached the eastern edge of the forest opposite Pont-sur-Sambre, having captured two Germans with a wagon loaded with machine guns.

After emerging from the forest the Battalion advanced, still eastwards, over moorland studded with small copses and houses within enclosures. The formation adopted by the leading companies was lines of small bodies, generally platoons, in file or single file, supported by platoons in echelon. The rear companies were, as a rule, 1000 yards behind the leading companies and moved up

"by bounds" as the latter completed the different stages of the advance, of which there were three between the forest and the final objective, the River Sambre. Communication between companies and Battalion Headquarters was maintained partly by visual signalling and partly by relay posts formed of signallers, dropped by the leading companies. This relay system proved to be a rapid and reliable method of communication largely owing to the able superintendence of Lieut. T. P. Fleming-Sandes, V.C., who had joined the Battalion a fortnight earlier.

The advance from the forest continued for about 1000 yards, when a halt was called for reorganization and to re-establish touch with the troops on either flank. After the halt the Battalion again advanced, with C and D Companies still leading, but some 500 yards further on encountered considerable resistance. The enemy had taken up a position on some high ground intersected with fences, which he held with a succession of machine-gun posts, which the enclosed nature of the country made it difficult to locate. To deal with these posts the leading companies pushed forward small patrols which did good work in driving them back, and one patrol made its way some distance forward to Hurtebise Farm, where it captured seventeen prisoners. It was not till after dark, however, that the leading companies completed this stage of the advance and obtained touch with the D.C.L.I. on their left. Efforts to communicate with the troops of the 21st Division on their right were unsuccessful. At this point orders were received for the Battalion to settle down for the night and to resume its advance early next morning.

Accordingly, at 6.30 a.m. on November 6th, the Battalion again moved forward, this time with A and B Companies leading. They met with little resistance and soon reached Pont-sur-Sambre. There had been in this advance a few casualties, which included Lieut. A. Telling wounded, mostly caused by machine-gun fire, but desultory shell fire commenced as the companies entered the village. Patrols sent forward to the Sambre encountered a heavy fire when they attempted to cross, and it was ascertained that the enemy was holding a position on the east bank of the river.

The Battalion now consolidated its new position, and all men not required to hold it found cover in the cellars of the village, which was at this time being subjected to heavy bursts of artillery fire. A downpour of rain all through the previous night and the fording of several deep streams during the approach to the Sambre had added to the discomfort of the men, but, fortunately for them, through the excellent work of the transport all received their rations shortly after dark. Throughout the later phases of the Advance to Victory the task of the Battalion transport had been no easy one. The enemy having destroyed the roads to the utmost of his ability, the use of wheeled transport for getting supplies forward to the Battalion at night was impracticable. Lieut. T. H. Yalden therefore organized a convoy of pack animals, which he invariably conducted personally and, in spite of difficult country, shell fire, darkness and damaged roads, always succeeded in bringing up rations to the Battalion during the night. For this valuable service he was awarded the Military Cross.

Meanwhile at noon orders had been received that the Battalion was to send one company to assist the 21st Division which was attacking Aymeries and Aulnoye, two villages on the east bank of the Sambre, a mile and two miles respectively south of Pont-sur-Sambre. B Company was detailed for this duty, and two of its platoons managed to cross the river at the Sawmill Lock just below the bridge which carries the road from Pont-sur-Sambre to Aymeries. They were met with heavy machine-gun fire from the latter village, and the enemy tried to destroy the bridge by concentrated artillery fire. In spite of this fire the bridge-head was held, but all attempts to establish touch with the 21st Division were unsuccessful.

Early next morning, November 7th, information was received that the enemy on the east bank of the Sambre had fallen back. The 15th Brigade commenced to cross the river and were followed by the 95th Brigade. The 1st Battn. East Surrey completed the crossing by 1.15 p.m. The operation was a slow business, as all the permanent bridges had been blown up during the night by mines previously laid and connected by wires with the enemy's lines. The 15th Brigade encountered considerable opposition from the enemy, who were holding the Maubeuge-Le Cateau railway, and the 1st Battn. East Surrey, who had crossed to the north of Pont-sur-Sambre, where the river formed a re-entrant loop, was halted near the bank and towards evening was put into houses in Pantignies. Meanwhile the 1st Battn. Devon Regt. had passed through the 15th Brigade, but had met with strong resistance, suffering severe casualties. The original orders for the 95th Brigade to continue the attack during the night were consequently cancelled and arrangements were made for a new advance on the following morning, when the 1st Battn. East Surrey was to advance east along the road to St. Rémi-mal-bâti with the object of forming a defensive flank north of that village facing northwards towards Maubeuge, in order to allow the 13th Brigade to pass through.

About 5 a.m. on the 7th, C Company (Captain Kennedy) and D Company (Captain Niven), supported by a section of the 95th Machine-gun Company, moved forward about half a mile to the Bois Georges, followed by A and B Companies. The advance commenced at 6.30 a.m., and soon afterwards small parties of British cavalry passed through the leading companies and entered St. Rémi-mal-bâti without any opposition. C and D Companies followed them through the village and formed the defensive flank as ordered without meeting any of the enemy. The inhabitants stated that the Germans had left only a few hours previously, and parties of them could be seen in the distance moving in a north-easterly direction. Soon afterwards the 42nd Division came in sight on the left of the Battalion and appeared to be making good progress, while the cavalry reported that the immediate front was clear of the enemy.

Meanwhile St. Rémi had been subjected at intervals to heavy bursts of shell fire, which continued on and off till 4 p.m. In order to obtain cover, A and B Companies were put into cellars in the village, as were all those who could be spared from the front line. There were several casualties, however, which included Lieut. J. L. Lasenby. At 8.30 p.m. a battalion of the 13th Brigade passed

through, and C and D Companies were then withdrawn into the village, where the night was passed in quiet.

The casualties of the Battalion from the 4th to 7th November were 4 other ranks killed and Lieuts. A. G. Delling, J. L. Lasenby, A. G. Newton and 37 other ranks wounded.

The Battalion left St. Rémi-mal-bâti on the 9th November and marched back to billets in Pont-sur-Sambre, where Lieut.-Colonel Minogue rejoined and resumed command. On the 10th the 5th Division was ordered to move to the Le Quesnoy area, and on the 11th the 1st Battn. East Surrey marched westward through the Forêt de Mormal to Le Quesnoy and was billeted in that town, which had been but little damaged during the recent fighting.

Here the Battalion received the news of the Armistice, and a copy of the following order issued by the G.O.C. the Third Army, which summarizes the part played by that Army in the Advance to Victory:—

“ To all Ranks of the Third Army.

“ The operations of the last three months have forced the enemy to sue for an Armistice as a prelude to Peace. Your share in the consummation of this achievement is one that fills me with pride and admiration.

“ Since 21st August you have won eighteen decisive battles; you have driven the enemy back over 60 miles of country, and you have captured 67,000 prisoners and 800 guns. That is your record, gained by your ceaseless enterprise, your indomitable energy, and your loyal support to your leaders. Eleven Divisions of the Third Army (Guards, 2nd, 3rd and 62nd; 5th, 37th, 42nd, and New Zealand; 17th, 21st and 38th) have been continuously in action since the beginning of the advance, and have borne the brunt of the operations.

“ May your pride in your achievements be as great as mine is in the recollection of having commanded the Army in which you have served.”

Thus at Le Quesnoy, some twenty miles south-west of Mons and within a day's march of the scene of its first encounter with the enemy, ended the share of the 1st Battn. East Surrey in the Great War, in which it had borne an active part from first to last. Its losses, as the reader must be aware, had been exceptionally heavy, and it had been fated to encounter a full share of the vicissitudes of war. It is not for its historian to attempt any estimate of its merits, and it would certainly not be the wish of the brave and modest men who served in its ranks that too much should be claimed on their behalf. This at least may be written without fear of contradiction: that the Battalion maintained throughout the high reputation for staunchness and discipline that it had earned in the Retreat from Mons, and that the young officers and young soldiers who succeeded the veterans of 1914 consistently showed the same gallantry in attack and doggedness in defence.

It remains only to place on record in this chapter the names of the officers

of the Battalion who lost their lives while serving with other corps during the period of the Great War. They are as follows:—

Captain C. R. T. Hopkinson, killed in action 6th September, 1914, while serving in West Africa.

Captain G. H. Wigston, killed in action 9th September, 1916, while serving with the 2nd Battn. Royal Sussex Regt.

Lieut. C. McC. H. M. Caffyn, killed in action 28th March, 1917, while attached to 60th Squadron R.F.C.

2nd Lieut. W. E. Jenkins, killed in action 23rd November, 1917, while attached to the 60th Squadron R.F.C.

2nd Lieut. A. E. Cook, killed in action 20th February, 1918, while serving with 2/22nd Battn. London Regt.

Lieut. G. T. Caesar, died 2nd May, 1918, of wounds received while serving with 1st Battn. Tank Corps.

Captain E. G. Lawton, died 12th April, 1918, of wounds received while serving with the Camel Corps of the Egyptian Army.

Lieut. J. L. Abbiss, died 25th July, 1918, while attached to the Machine Gun Corps.

2nd Lieut. L. J. Brown, killed in action 19th August, 1918, while serving with the 2nd Battn. Royal Fusiliers.

2nd Lieut. E. E. Richardson, killed in action 9th November, 1918, while attached to Royal Air Force.

Lieut. A. J. Eccles, M.C., died 26th November, 1918, while attached to the Royal Engineers.

CHAPTER XVII

AUGUST TO NOVEMBER, 1918 : THE 2ND BATTALION WITH THE SALONIKA ARMY ; IN SUPPORT OF THE CRETAN DIVISION IN THE BATTLE OF DOIRAN, 1918 ; IT REJOINS THE 28TH DIVISION IN THE PURSUIT OF THE RETREATING BULGARIANS ; THE 28TH DIVISION WITHDRAWN FROM THE PURSUIT ; AND MOVES SOUTHWARDS TOWARDS SALONIKA ; NEWS OF THE BULGARIAN, TURKISH AND GERMAN ARMISTICES ; THE BATTALION PLACED UNDER ORDERS FOR CONSTANTINOPLE.

THE 2nd Battn. East Surrey remained throughout August not far east of Lake Doiran, in the Sal Grec sector of the Krusha Balkan outpost line, employed as, in the preceding month, in training and work on the defences. About the end of August it was rumoured that the Allied Salonika Armies were about to advance and that Greek divisions were reinforcing the British Force.

On this occasion the rumours proved to be correct, and on the 1st September orders were received for the 2nd Battn. East Surrey to advance down the northern slope of the Krusha Balkan. A new position was therefore taken up that night, which the Battalion held until it was relieved on the 4th September by the 1st Battn. Suffolk Regt., of the 84th Brigade. The 2nd Battn. East Surrey then moved westward towards Lake Doiran and took over from "The Buffs" the line Papovo—The Peak—Rabovo Spur.

On the 5th September, Lieuts. C. T. Wheeler and B. Scurfield and six other ranks commenced a course of training under the XVI Corps Intelligence Officer. These officers and men reconnoitred very carefully the ground in front of the Battalion, in order to take over the duty of guiding the Cretan Division to the position from which it was to deliver an attack. During one of these reconnaissances Lieut. Scurfield and Sergt. Powell captured a Bulgarian patrol of six men under a German officer. The patrol had been hiding for some days in Rabovo village, watching all British movements. Valuable information was obtained from this patrol, and Lieut. Scurfield was later on awarded the Military Cross for his good work in capturing it.

During the next few days the enemy was very quiet, although the British gunners were "registering" daily. A large shell-dump, camouflaged with grass, had been formed near Papovo village. Unfortunately, one afternoon the enemy artillery opened on it, and the fifth round sent the entire dump into the air. An East Surrey company which was in camp close by escaped with no casualties.

On the morning of the 14th September the Allies commenced their general attack with an intense bombardment of the enemy's 80-mile front from Monastir to Lake Doiran. The right limit of this bombardment was visible from the

position occupied by the 2nd Battn. East Surrey. On the 15th the Franco-Serbian troops, under Voivode Mischitch, pierced the centre of the Doiran-Monastir front and prepared the way for the forthcoming British assault on the Doiran sector.

The main British attack was to be delivered to the west of Lake Doiran, but it was to be supported by a secondary surprise attack round the eastern and northern shores of the Lake against the enemy's trenches on the southern slope of the Beles Range. This secondary attack was to be carried out by the Cretan Division, supported by troops of the 28th Division.

On the 16th September the Cretan Division descended the north-western slopes of the Krusha Balkan, and on the 17th was led by the guides to the position from which it was to attack. The 2nd Battn. East Surrey, which was one of the units of the 28th Division allotted to support the Cretans, followed at 3.30 a.m. on the 18th September and soon after 5 a.m. reached the Doiran-Demirhissar railway. By this time the Cretan Division had carried the enemy's outpost line in front of Akindzali, a village about two miles to the north-east of Lake Doiran. Its next objective was the main Bulgar trenches on the slopes of the Beles Range. If these also were captured, the left flank of the Bulgar front, between Lake Doiran and the Vardar River, would be turned and, in any case, the attack would prevent the transfer of enemy reinforcements to more threatened points to the westward. In making this attack the Cretans penetrated the Bulgar line in several places, but failed to obtain a permanent footing, though they fought stubbornly.

At 10 p.m. on the same day the 2nd Battn. East Surrey was ordered forward to dig a new line north of Akindzali, which village it reached at dawn on the 19th, but found that no work could be done during daylight, as the whole area was in full view of the enemy on the higher ground. During the day the Cretan Division was gradually withdrawn to the railway, and that night the East Surrey was busily engaged in digging and wiring, while a fierce conflict was still continuing on the western side of Lake Doiran.

During the evening of the 20th September the Battalion was withdrawn from Akindzali to the Hodza, a small river flowing into Lake Doiran. Here again it dug in while the cavalry reconnoitring in front located small parties of the enemy in Nicolik, on the northern shore of the lake.

Meanwhile important changes were taking place to the west of Lake Doiran. On the far side of the River Vardar the Franco-Serbian advance had by the morning of the 21st turned the flank of the Bulgarian force between that river and Lake Doiran, and by noon it was evident that the enemy was hurriedly retiring on the Doiran front. Large fires and loud explosions showed where his depots and dumps were being destroyed, and airmen reported that the Kosturino Pass, north-west of the lake, was choked with his troops, hurrying northwards. That evening the enemy's advanced trenches were reported to be empty, and before dawn on the 22nd September the British Salonika Army had commenced the pursuit. The main body of the 28th Division was moving across by forced marches from the right of the Struma front towards Lake Doiran, and on the

22nd September the 2nd Battn. East Surrey was relieved by the Cretans in the Hodza Suju line and moved south to Surlovo to await the arrival of the Division.

There was, however, a very short period of rest, as on the 23rd September the Battalion moved to Doiran town and thence on the following night by the western shore of the lake to Kara Ogular, where the enemy's trenches, filled with dead, gave evidence of the severity of the struggle of a few days previous. Malaria was prevalent in the Battalion, and its strength was daily reduced by the long marches in intense heat; but at 7 a.m. on the 25th September the advance was resumed to Dzuma Obasi, a small village well up the slope of the Beles Range. Next day the Battalion formed the advance guard of the 85th Brigade in its march towards Hill 1186, one of the highest points of the range and in Bulgarian territory. The day was hot and the going very heavy along sandy tracks and up steep inclines. B Company formed the vanguard, and at 6 p.m. got in touch with the retiring enemy, whose shooting with machine guns was erratic. At 6.30 p.m. C Company replaced B as vanguard and pushed forward towards Hill 1186 until 11 p.m., when it was decided to halt for the night. Outposts were thrown out, and Lieut. Reeve, with a patrol, reconnoitred the summit of Hill 1186, which he found clear of the enemy. At 4 a.m. on the 27th the Battalion moved forward and at 6.30 a.m. reached Hill 1186, whence the enemy were seen retreating across the Strumitza Valley.

During the week's hard marching the men had borne themselves excellently, but malaria and broncho-pneumonia had still further reduced their numbers until on the 27th September the Battalion had a strength of 186 other ranks only, and A Company could muster no more than thirteen rifles. Among those who had been left behind sick was Lieut. B. Scurfield, M.C. (4th Battn. attd.), who died in hospital on the 30th September. He was a gallant young officer and a great loss to the Battalion.

Other units of the 28th Division were in a condition no better than that of the 2nd Battn. East Surrey, and in consequence of its depleted strength it was found necessary to withdraw the Division from the pursuit of the Bulgarian forces. The 2nd Battn. East Surrey accordingly moved south to Dzuma Obasi on the 28th September. Here it was reorganized into two companies and employed on salvage work. On the last day of September news was received that the Bulgarian Mission had signed an Armistice at Salonika and that military operations would cease at noon.

The Battalion remained at Dzuma Obasi until the 6th October, when it moved to Bakche Obasi, and on the 11th to Cestova. On the 14th it started on a three days' march via Kara Ogular and Hirsova to Yanes, on the Doiran-Salonika railway, twenty-five miles north of the last-named town. At Yanes there was a halt of four days, on the last of which, the 19th October, representatives from all units of the 28th Division attended a parade to hear an address by the Bishop of London and a message to the troops from His Majesty the King. On the 20th the march southwards was resumed, the Battalion reaching Sarigol that evening and Ambarkoi on the following day. From Ambarkoi the Battalion

turned eastward to Guvesne, on the Salonika-Seres road, which it reached on the 22nd October.

Meanwhile the Greek and British Divisions had pressed forward in pursuit of the Bulgarians down the Strumitza Valley, and on the 30th September, when the news of the Armistice was received, were within fifteen miles of the Rupel Pass and the communications of the Bulgarian force on the Struma River. On the 10th October the 28th Division was ordered to be in readiness to proceed to Dedeagatch in Thrace, near the mouth of the Maritza River. Some advanced Divisions had already seized the crossings of the Maritza, 150 miles west of Constantinople, when on the night of the 30th/31st October news was received that an Armistice had been concluded with Turkey.

The news of this Armistice reached the 2nd Battn. East Surrey while it was still at Guvesne. Its stay in that village had been utilized for Battalion training, which continued till the 6th November, when the Battalion marched down the Seres road to Summer Hill, three and a half miles north of Salonika. The ground was familiar to all those who had landed with the Battalion at Salonika in 1915, for it was close to the camp where the Battalion had spent its first night in Greek Macedonia. At Summer Hill on the 11th November the 2nd Battn. East Surrey learnt, firstly, that an Armistice had been concluded with Germany and, secondly, that it was to embark on the following day for Constantinople.

Thus ended the active service of the 2nd Battn. East Surrey in the Great War. It may seem from the foregoing records that the conditions under which the Battalion served on the Salonika front from the 1st December, 1915, were less arduous and dangerous than those which prevailed during the same period in other theatres of the War. But it must not be forgotten that, although the story of the three years spent by the Battalion in Greek Macedonia is short and not always eventful, in reality those three years were, for both officers and men, long and weary. The country in which they were called upon to serve was a desolate one, with few roads or railways and but a scanty supply of water. For the prosecution of the campaign roads and water supplies had to be provided by the troops themselves, and in that rocky country these tasks entailed hard work with no relaxation through the intense heat of summer, and the heavy rain and bitter cold of the remainder of the year. There were no villages to afford comfortable billets in which to rest between the spells of trench and outpost duty, which lasted for two or three months at a time. Worst of all, there was but little chance of leave to the United Kingdom, and many of the men saw nothing except the rocks that they lived among for months, and even years, unless an exceptionally severe attack of malaria temporarily incapacitated them for work at the front. Notwithstanding these hardships, the Battalion throughout maintained the discipline and smartness which on several occasions, as we have seen, evoked the appreciation of the higher Commanders.

In the absence of frequent opportunity of earning distinction in action, the award of honours to the 2nd Battn. East Surrey was necessarily limited, and it has not been practicable, as in the case of other battalions of the Regiment, to place the lists of those awarded decorations immediately after the account of the

action for which they were conferred. The following list, therefore, gives the names of officers and other ranks thus rewarded and not already mentioned in the text:—

C.B. : Major (Temporary Brigadier-General) F. C. Montague-Bates.

C.M.G. : Lieut.-Colonel A. H. S. Hart-Synott, while serving on the Staff, and Major (Temporary Brigadier-General) F. C. Montague-Bates.

Bar to Distinguished Service Order : Lieut.-Colonel A. H. S. Hart-Synott, 3rd June, 1918.

Distinguished Service Order : Lieut.-Colonel E. H. Nicholson (Royal Fusiliers attd.) and clasp; Lieut.-Colonel C. P. Porch (Reserve of Officers East Surrey, attd. Northumberland Fusiliers) and clasp; Lieut.-Colonel A. T. Robinson (attd. 7th Battn. Oxford and Bucks L.I.); Majors F. C. Montague-Bates and M. J. A. Jourdier (Staff employ); Captain (Acting Major) H. V. Bayliss (attd. 7th Battn. Wiltshire Regt.); Captain (Temporary Lieut.-Colonel) E. H. J. Nicolls (attd. 5th Battn. Royal Berkshire Regt.).

Order of the British Empire : (C.B.E. and O.B.E.) Lieut.-Colonel H. Clay; (O.B.E.) Lieut.-Colonel C. C. G. Ashton; Major (Temporary Lieut.-Colonel) L. J. Le Fleming; (M.B.E.) Captain H. R. Faulkner; Lieuts. W. J. Luxton and D. A. Weir (6th Battn. attd.).

Military Cross : Captains W. A. Dimoline (attd. R.E.), J. Gurdon (Brigade Major 65th Infantry Brigade), J. O. Carpenter, K. Marshall and D. Hamilton (R.A.M.C. attd.); Captain and Quartermaster H. J. Percy (attd. 7th Battn. Royal Fusiliers); Lieuts. M. R. Dell, W. J. Gibbs, J. A. Hart, W. R. Reeve (6th Battn. attd.) and H. F. B. Garrett (Acting Major, attd. Machine Gun Corps).

Distinguished Flying Cross : Lieut. W. Coker.

Distinguished Conduct Medal : Regtl. Sergt.-Major E. E. W. Baker.

Meritorious Service Medal : Company Sergt.-Majors W. Hardiman and G. Gibbs; Sergts. J. W. Bedwell, W. J. Pullen and J. Sharland; Lce.-Sergt. C. H. A. Cardy; Cpls. J. Ford and C. Westote.

Military Medal : Sergt. L. H. Hawkins and Ptes. G. Pearson and C. Marshall.

French Legion of Honour : Lieut. N. S. Beale.

French Croix de Guerre : Lieut.-Colonel A. T. Robinson (attd. Oxford and Bucks L.I.) and Sergt. L. H. Hawkins.

Médaille Militaire : Company Sergt.-Major G. Coomber and Pte. F. Bowers.

Belgian Croix de Guerre : Captain W. A. Dimoline (attd. R.E.).

Greek Military Cross : Lieut.-Colonel C. C. G. Ashton, Lieut. (Acting Major) H. F. B. Garrett (attd. Machine Gun Corps) and Pte. C. Marshall.

Greek Order of the Redeemer : Captains E. R. Gould and R. A. Boxshall; Lieuts. B. L. Prentice and J. B. Carter.

Greek Military Medal : Lieuts. B. Scurfield and C. T. Wheeler.

Serbian Cross of Kara George : Regtl. Sergt.-Major E. E. W. Baker.

Before closing this chapter mention must be made of certain officers of the Battalion who met their deaths while serving with other corps. Their names were:—

Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Fitzgerald, who died 13th July, 1916, of wounds received while serving with the 15th Battn. Durham Light Infantry.

Lieut.-Colonel A. T. Robinson, D.S.O., who died 11th May, 1917, of wounds received while serving with the 7th Battn. Oxford and Bucks L.I.

Captain A. G. McC. Burn, who was killed in action on the 29th October, 1914, while serving with the 1st Battn. Gloucester Regt.

Lieut. F. L. Carter, who was killed in action on 22nd April, 1917, while serving with the Royal Flying Corps.

CHAPTER XVIII

AUGUST TO NOVEMBER, 1918: THE 1/5TH BATTALION IN THE FINAL OPERATIONS AGAINST THE TURKS ON THE TIGRIS.

DURING the summer months of 1918, which, as already recorded in Chapter III, were passed by the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey in Samarra, the Battalion was employed in the construction of the road along the right bank of the Tigris to Tikrit. Owing to the excessive heat, this work was arduous and exhausting.

On the 11th October the Battalion marched out of Samarra to take part in an operation which proved to be the final one against the Turks on the Tigris. The route followed was up the left bank of the river, and a point opposite Tikrit was reached on the 13th.

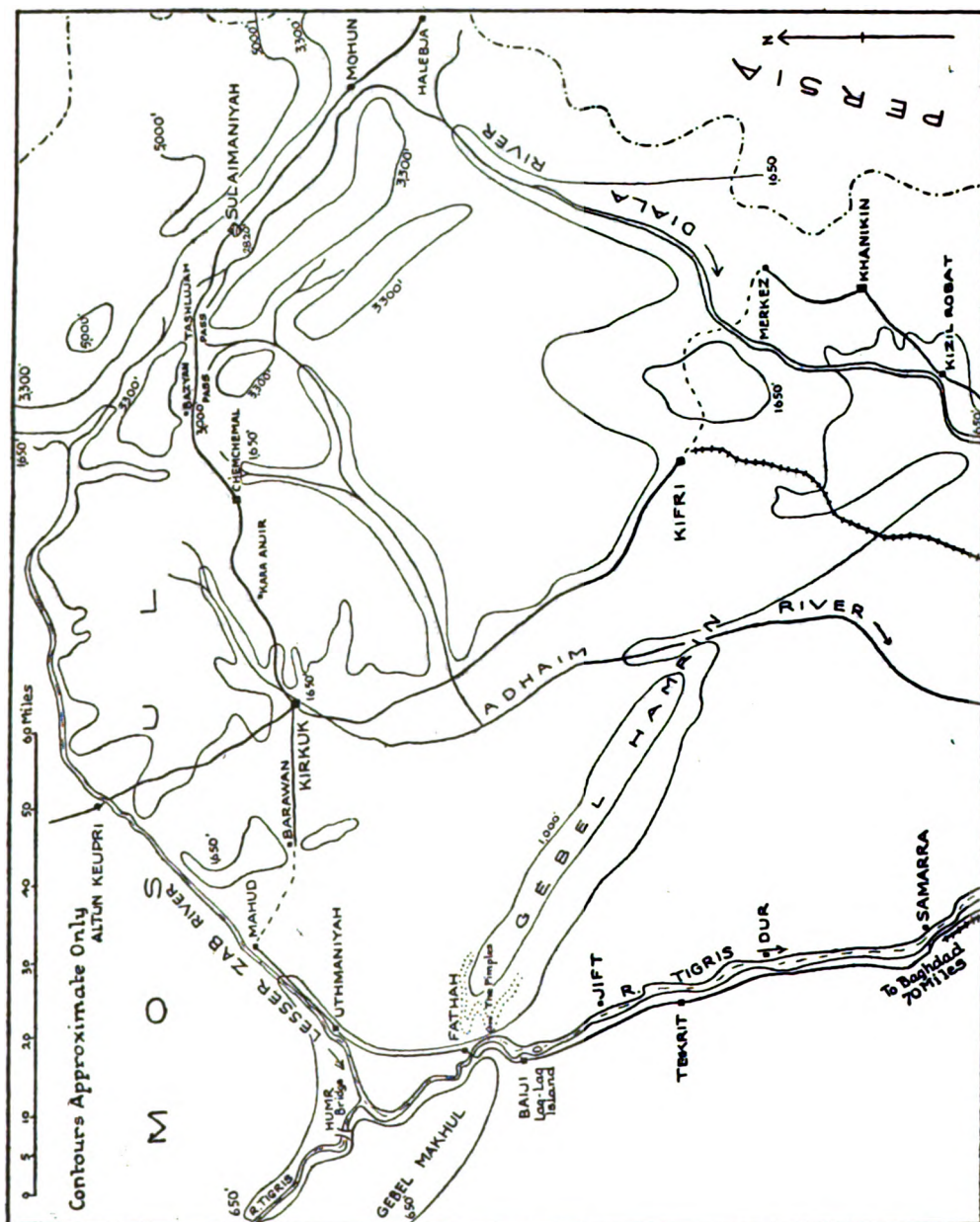
Three days later the scouts of the Battalion, under Lieut. F. V. Freeborn, pushed forward some twenty-five miles to a nullah opposite Laq-Laḡ Island, from which position they carried out useful reconnaissances, frequently under hostile fire.

On the 20th October the Battalion moved forward from its bivouac opposite Tikrit to Jift, and thence during the night of the 21st/22nd October to Um-el-Lillah, about eight miles south of Fatha Gorge, which was the objective of the 18th Division.

The position astride of the Tigris at Fatha Gorge, held by about 9000 men of the Sixth Turkish Army with 59 guns, was one of great natural strength, its right flank being protected by Jabal Makhul, while on the left bank the Turkish lines extended for about five miles along the crest of Jabal Hamrin. There was a second strong position astride the junction of the Lesser Zab with the Tigris, and a bridge over the latter river at Humr gave the Turks free movement from bank to bank. Owing to lack of transport, any wide turning movement was impracticable, and the only course open was to advance up the Tigris and turn the left of the Turkish position on Jabal Hamrin. This task was allotted to the 18th Division and the 7th and 11th Cavalry Brigades, while the 17th Division operated on the right bank of the river. The strength of all the units of these formations, which were newly formed, was considerably reduced at this juncture by an outbreak of influenza. Fortunately this came to an end as soon as the operations commenced.

By the 22nd October the 55th Brigade, of which the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey formed part, was concentrated, and that night it moved forward some five miles to the ridge known as "The Pimples," which lies close to and at right angles to the left bank of the Tigris, at a distance of a mile to a mile and a half from the enemy's trenches in the Gorge and on Jabal Hamrin.

On reaching the ridge the 55th Brigade spent the remainder of the night in digging trenches, but, owing to the stony nature of the soil, those dug by the



THE 1⁵TH BATTALION IN THE OPERATIONS ON THE TIGRIS AND IN SOUTHERN KHURDISTAN.

1/5th Battn. East Surrey were very shallow. During the 23rd the 55th Brigade remained in its trenches, the Battalion being shelled by the Turkish artillery, but without suffering any casualty.

Meanwhile the 54th Brigade was advancing along the crest of Jabal Hamrin in order to get into position on the right front of the 55th, preparatory to the delivery of the attack on the Gorge at daybreak on the 24th. The 54th Brigade reached its allotted position by the evening of the 23rd, but information had been received meanwhile that the Turks were already retiring. Accordingly, both Brigades were ordered to advance forthwith, and the 55th reached its objective, the last enemy trench in the Fatha Gorge, at 2 a.m. on the 24th October without encountering any opposition.

The same day the 11th Cavalry Brigade crossed the Lesser Zab in the face of strong opposition at a deep ford near Uthmaniyah, and on the 25th October the 7th Cavalry Brigade and 53rd Infantry Brigade forced the passage of the same river near its junction with the Tigris, whereupon the Turkish forces on the left bank of the last-named river withdrew by the Humr Bridge to the right bank.

From this point onwards the right bank of the Tigris became the scene of the operations which resulted, on the 30th October, in the surrender of the Turkish Commander, Ismail Hakki, with over 11,000 men and 51 guns. The 55th Brigade had not the good fortune to take part in these final operations, as it remained on the left bank of the Tigris, and was on the Lesser Zab when news of the Turkish Armistice was received on the 1st November. Two days later the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey moved back to Baiji, a village on the right bank of the Tigris, some ten miles below Fatha Gorge.

CHAPTER XIX

AUGUST TO NOVEMBER, 1918 : THE 8TH BATTALION IN THE ADVANCE TO VICTORY ; IN THE BATTLE OF AMIENS ; IN THE BATTLE OF ALBERT, 1918, AT THE RECAPTURE OF ALBERT, MAMETZ WOOD AND MONTAUBAN ; IN THE SECOND BATTLE OF BAPAUME, AT THE TAKING OF LE PRIEZ FARM AND RANCOURT ; IN THE BATTLE OF EPEHY AND CAPTURE OF RONSSOY ; IN THE BATTLE OF THE SELLE AND CAPTURE OF BOUSIES AND ROBERSART ; IN THE BATTLE OF THE SAMBRE, THE ADVANCE THROUGH THE FORET DE MORMAL TO THE SAMBRE, AT SASSEGNIES ; THE ARMISTICE.

AFTER dark on the 31st July, 1918, the 8th Battn. East Surrey Regt. had taken over a sector of the front line near Morlancourt, which lies some three miles south of Albert on the north side of the high ridge which separates the Ancre and Somme rivers. The 18th Division still belonged to the III Corps, which now formed part of the Fourth Army.

Lieut.-Colonel Irwin, having proceeded home on a well-earned month's leave, Major Baddeley was in command of the Battalion. B and C Companies were in the front-line positions across the ridge and astride the Bray-Corbie road, about a mile to the south-west of Morlancourt, with the other companies in support. The 7th Battn. "The Buffs" were on the left of B Company, and the 2nd Battn. Bedford Regt. on C Company's right. The outgoing troops had quite recently advanced the line some 200 yards, and in consequence the new front line was nothing more than a drain along which was a series of small partly dug posts. Strenuous efforts were at once made to turn the front and support lines into a sound defensive position. A and D Companies co-operated with the front-line companies in this work ; but the front was a long one. Moreover, rain fell continuously for several days, and, considerably battered by heavy barrages, which the enemy put down daily at dawn, the trenches, in spite of all efforts, again became mere waterlogged ditches. Meanwhile the Battalion was also called upon to find large carrying parties for the artillery, whose guns, in view of the great counter-offensive planned for the 8th August, had now been brought well forward. Small wonder, then, that by the night of 5th/6th August, when a relief was ordered, the Battalion, drenched with rain and plastered with mud, was completely worn out. A and D Companies again spent the night as carrying parties, and on completion of their work soon after 2 a.m. on the 6th August, under orders from the Brigade, they were sent back to reserve positions near Treux, on the River Ancre, the incoming unit having received instructions for a somewhat different disposition in view of the impending operations.

Early in the night of the 5th/6th the 7th Battn. "The Buffs" had taken over the portion of B Company's frontage to the north of the Bray-Corbie road. At 2 a.m. on the 6th, however, there were still no signs of the relieving unit for

the south of the road, apart from the advance parties who had arrived early the previous evening. The guides were still waiting at the appointed rendezvous, and several search parties failed to trace the incoming unit.

At 4.15 a.m. on the 6th August the enemy barrage came down upon the whole front of the 55th Brigade and upon that of the brigade on the right. Ten minutes later his infantry attacked. Advancing in great numbers along the main road, the enemy overran the left posts of B Company and drove a wedge into the line between that company and the "Buffs." At the same time he broke through on the right and C Company's right flank was soon completely turned. Gallantly commanded by Captain G. E. Swinton, C Company fell back, contesting the ground inch by inch. Some sections of B Company conformed with this movement. Other sections, however, remained in their posts, and when at length the advancing enemy turned aside from the road to occupy his old front line (the Cloncurry-Cummins line) and joined up with those troops who had broken through on the right, these sections, still fighting in their trenches, were completely cut off.

The occupation of his original line seemed to be the sole purpose of the enemy, for although patrols pushed still further forward, they eventually withdrew to the Cloncurry line. One of these patrols, coming suddenly upon a runner relay post, captured its occupants. The latter, however, with one exception, acting upon a ruse devised by Cpl. A. Walker, feigned wounds and death, and when a large shell burst near and their captors left them, they again occupied the post.

Meanwhile the remnants of B and C Companies had established themselves in the Cobar line, where they were soon reinforced by D Company. B Company had sustained very heavy losses, all their officers having become casualties in the early stages of the attack, including Captain F. A. Dawson, M.C., who was killed. He was a most gallant and capable officer, whose services to the Battalion, both at Poelcapelle and during the March retreat, have already been mentioned. In C Company, 2nd Lieut. A. E. Spooner alone was unwounded; but his company still remained a tactical unit.

At 10 a.m. the Battalion was ordered to withdraw to the north of the road and take over a portion of the frontage of the 7th Battn. "The Buffs" in the Cobar line. With the units on its flanks it was then to push forward to the Burke line, where parties of the enemy had now established themselves. Soon after midday this task had been accomplished by D Company, under Captain W. P. Selbie, and A Company moved up in support. During the remainder of the day the situation was unaltered, although many casualties were sustained by the repeated bursts of fire of the enemy artillery.

At 11 p.m. orders were received for a counter-attack at dawn, with a view to the recapture of the Cloncurry line. The attack was to be carried out by four units, viz. by the 7th Battn. "The Buffs" on the left, the 8th Battn. East Surrey and two battalions of another brigade on its right. Shortly before zero, which was at 4.45 a.m. on the 7th August, A Company moved forward and formed up in front of Burke Trench. Following closely upon the barrage, the attacking

troops, both of "The Buffs" and the East Surrey, gained their objective, which they proceeded to consolidate. On the right flank, however, the attack had not been so successful, and a length of 200 yards in Cloncurry was still occupied by the enemy. Further efforts by troops on that flank failed to dislodge them; and having formed a defensive flank, A Company spent the day in attempts to clear the trench by bombing attacks. Lieut. P. R. Ackerley was killed and several men wounded by trench-mortar bombs, with which the enemy persistently bombarded the sector. A further concerted attack was planned for 6 p.m., but this was cancelled.

The great attack of the Fourth Army was fixed for the morning of 8th August. Its object was to advance the Allies' line eastwards as far as Méricourt-sur-Somme on the north and Quesnel on the south, and thus free the main Paris-Amiens railway. On the 55th Brigade front the 7th Battn. "Queen's" was to carry out the initial attack. Their task was rendered considerably harder by the difficulties of the local situation.

At 9 p.m. on the evening of the 7th August the 8th Battn. East Surrey was ordered to throw out covering parties near the section of Cloncurry Trench which was still held by the enemy, to enable the "Queen's" to form up unmolested. Considerable assistance to this unit in moving forward was rendered by a party of guides under Lieuts. B. D. Ogden and W. F. C. Embley, two officers who throughout the operations had displayed great initiative and determination. The night was quiet, and, their task accomplished, the covering party was withdrawn at 3.5 a.m.

At 4.20 a.m. on the 8th August the "Queen's" went forward. Their rôle was that of pivot to the Fourth Army, so that their left flank advanced but a short distance from the front line while their right went well forward. During the forenoon the 8th Battn. East Surrey was ordered to take up positions in support of the "Queen's"; and A and D Companies, having occupied the old front line, remained there until the evening of the 10th, by which time divisions on the left had attacked and, advancing south-east across the Battalion's front, had carried the line forward to the objective.

The fighting from the 6th to 10th August had resulted in heavy losses to the Battalion. In addition to Captain F. A. Dawson, M.C., and Lieut. P. R. Ackerley killed, 2nd Lieut. H. Nichols had died of his wounds, and 6 other officers, including Captain G. E. Swinton and Lieut. B. D. Ogden, had been wounded; while 89 other ranks were killed or missing, and 118 had gone down wounded. But the Battalion had fought with the greatest gallantry. Soaked to the skin and tired, "thin" on the ground, unsupported by more than a light barrage (for most of the guns had been moved forward before the attack of the 6th and were lying camouflaged), they had been forced to retire by superior numbers of fresh troops. It later transpired that the enemy had brought up three battalions of "storm troops" by motor-bus from a rest area on the evening of the 5th, and these, coming into the line at 9 p.m., had delivered the attack on the following morning.

It was also most gratifying to learn that, though the enemy took some

prisoners on the morning of the 6th, the counter-offensive of two days later came as a complete surprise to him. Although preparations had been carried on as unostentatiously as possible, it must have been obvious to the most unobservant of our troops that something important was shortly to happen.

The following honours were awarded to the Battalion for conspicuous services in the Battle of Amiens:—

Bar to Military Cross : Captain P. G. Heath.

Military Cross : Captain G. E. Swinton; Lieuts. E. J. Clift, W. F. C. Embley and B. D. Ogden; 2nd Lieut. A. E. Spooner.

2nd Bar to Military Medal : Cpl. A. Walker.

Military Medal : Company Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. H. E. Holland; Sergt. H. P. Lewry; Cpl. H. B. Mills; Lce.-Cpls. W. H. Liddell, G. W. Thorndick and G. Wing; Ptes. C. Boon, J. G. A. Creed, C. Harrison, G. W. R. Payne, G. Turner and W. Sharples.

The period from the 11th to the 17th August was spent in resting and training at Warloy, and on the night of the 17th the Battalion again moved into the line, this time close to and south-west of Albert, the sector extending from the Albert-Millencourt road to the Albert-Amiens road. The front line was a series of posts along the main line railway embankment. Companies went forward with but three platoons, and in the line were each allotted a fourth platoon of American troops. It was a pleasing experience for our men thus to find themselves in close touch with the troops of an ally of whom much was now to be expected. However, after forty-eight hours' duty these troops were withdrawn, and the remaining platoons of the Battalion, who had meanwhile been training in Warloy, again joined their companies.

The Commander-in-Chief had now decided to extend the attack northwards to the area between the Rivers Somme and Scarpe. Preceded by two limited attacks, one on the 21st north of the River Ancre, and the other on the following day, when the 18th Division was to force the passage of the Ancre and to capture Albert, the main attack on a front of thirty-three miles was to commence on the 23rd August, the attacking force being the Third Army and those divisions of the Fourth Army which were north of the River Somme. The 8th Battn. East Surrey was warned that its rôle would be to advance through and clear Albert, a task which appeared by no means easy to those who had known the town in earlier days, and who realized the result of nearly five months' heavy and continuous shelling of its houses and intricate streets.

D Company was at this time in the front line; and Captain W. P. Selbie was instructed to make a thorough reconnaissance of the entrances into the town by frequent and daring patrols. This work was most successful and much valuable information was brought in, although Captain Selbie was wounded in a gallant effort to extricate a patrol which had got into difficulties on the Amiens road.

By the evening of the 21st August everything was ready, and at 10 p.m. A, B and C Companies moved forward to temporary sheltered positions near the

THE 8TH BATTALION IN THE BATTLE OF ALBERT, 1918 193

railway. During the late afternoon British aircraft had seen long convoys of enemy transport going in an easterly direction. This was thought to be the prelude to a retirement, and at midnight all units in the line were ordered to send out strong fighting patrols to discover if the local situation remained unchanged. These patrols were heavily fired upon when entering Albert, and at length withdrew. At 3.30 a.m., A, B and D Companies moved out to their forming-up positions east of the railway, C Company remaining in the old front line in reserve. These movements were hardly completed when the enemy put down a particularly heavy barrage on the whole sector. The Battalion's casualties, however, were light, for C Company alone was in the shelled area, the other companies having formed up well forward. The shelling gradually diminished and ceased completely when the British bombardment opened at 4.45 a.m. on the 22nd August.

An hour later the attack began. Companies had each been allotted definite areas to clear, and a "Red line" on the eastern outskirts of the town had been indicated as the final objective. The "mopping up" of the town proceeded rapidly, in spite of blocked roads and destroyed bridges, and by 9.20 a.m. Albert was reported clear of the enemy, and the Battalion was established along the line of the light railway on the eastern edge of the town. Few casualties had been sustained and well over 250 prisoners had been sent back.

At 10 a.m. the 7th Battn. "The Buffs" were ordered to pass through and attack the "Blue line," a formidable position astride the Albert-Bapaume road on the hills known as Tara and Usna. Here the enemy put up a most determined resistance, and his machine-gun fire swept the hill-sides up which the "Buffs" made repeated efforts to advance. During the morning enemy artillery again came into action and began to shell most fiercely the eastern exits of the town. After a personal reconnaissance, the Brigade Commander ordered "The Buffs" to fall back upon the line already consolidated by the 8th Battn. East Surrey. After nightfall both battalions were ordered to attempt, by means of fighting patrols, to make good the original objective of "The Buffs," in order to facilitate the advance of the 7th Battn. "Queen's" planned for the following morning as part of the main attack fixed for the 23rd. Largely owing to the fearlessness and determination of 2nd Lieut. A. E. H. Bright, temporarily in command of B Company, who himself took out three successive patrols, the "Blue line" was established before dawn; and the new attack went forward most successfully. During the afternoon of the 23rd the Battalion was ordered back to its old positions west of Albert. In spite of the propitious start on the previous morning the Battalion had sustained 5 officer casualties (all wounded), while 19 other ranks had been killed and 116 wounded, most of these being from the enemy shelling of the afternoon and evening. But the promptness with which the clearing of the town was carried out evoked highly congratulatory messages from the Brigade and Divisional Commanders.

For acts of conspicuous gallantry during this action, Captain W. P. Selbie, Lieut. J. L. P. Denny (4th Battn. attd.), 2nd Lieuts. A. E. H. Bright, D.C.M. (4th Battn. attd.), C. B. Marks and A. H. Turner (attd. 55th T.M.B.) received

the Military Cross; Sergt. A. Roser and Pte. A. King the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The Military Medal was awarded to Cpls. W. Hewerdine and R. Wood; Lce.-Cpls. A. Bartlett and G. W. Sherwin and Ptes. W. Geary and G. B. Ruse; while Pte. E. Witcher received a first bar to that decoration.

On the evening of 24th August the Battalion again moved eastwards and took over from the 8th Battn. Royal Berkshire Regt. positions overlooking La Boisselle, about two miles from Albert on the Bapaume road.

At dawn on the 25th August it became apparent that the enemy was retiring rapidly, and, in conjunction with "The Buffs," the Battalion pushed forward due east. By noon B Company, as vanguard, was making its way through Mametz Wood in touch with troops of the 30th Division on the left and with "The Buffs" on the right. On its eastern edge they encountered a stiff resistance, and it was not until 9.30 a.m. on the 26th that Mametz Wood was cleared of the enemy. During the afternoon machine guns attached to the Battalion were used with great effect in assisting the attack on Montauban by a company of "The Buffs." From excellent positions on the slopes north of Caterpillar Valley the wide, open stretches of the ridge on which the village stands were swept with fire; and the Battalion thus materially assisted in the capture of the ridge for which it had fought so gallantly more than two years before.

During the night 26th/27th August other troops passed through the Battalion, whose front line just east of Mametz Wood was now organized as the Divisional Line of Resistance. Casualties during the previous two days' fighting had amounted to 5 other ranks killed and 2 officers and 74 other ranks wounded—a comparatively small loss for the enormous advance that had been made. Sergt. F. Stebbings, Lce.-Sergt. D. King, Lce.-Cpls. W. Mailes and W. L. Cullen, and Ptes. F. J. A. Allery and J. H. B. Blake received the Military Medal for acts of courage, daring and initiative in these operations.

For four days the Battalion remained in the Mametz Wood area, being reinforced from the "battle-surplus" and receiving some drafts. At this juncture Lieut.-Colonel Irwin rejoined from leave and resumed command of the Battalion.

On the afternoon of the 30th August the Battalion again moved forward and was temporarily accommodated in old trenches about Trones Wood which had been recaptured by the 18th Division on the 27th. A big operation had been planned for September 1st, and this was explained in a series of conferences during the 31st. "Through the retention of Morval, on the left of the Divisional front, the enemy had stabilized for three days his line east of Combles, which latter village had been retaken by the 16th Division on the 29th August." This line was now to be attacked in an extensive operation; but on the immediate front the 8th Battn. East Surrey was to attack to the south of the village of Combles. Advancing along the southern side of the ridge running from Le Priez Farm to Rancourt, the Battalion was then to seize the line of the Peronne-Bapaume road on a frontage of about 900 yards from the northern end of Rancourt. When this operation was complete, the 7th Battn. "The Buffs," following closely, was to wheel in a northerly direction and cover the completely exposed left flank of the 8th Battn. East Surrey. By these operations the enemy

THE 8TH BATTALION IN SECOND BATTLE OF BAPAUME 195

garrisons in the neighbourhood of Combles and Frégicourt would be completely cut off, and these were to be "collected" by the "Queen's."

For the attack, which proved to be one of the most successful in the Battalion's history, companies were allotted the following tasks. A Company was ordered to seize Le Priez Farm, which lies half-way between Combles and Rancourt, and consolidate the ridge on which it stood. C Company, avoiding as far as possible the fighting round the farm, was to work its way along south of that position and seize the spur running north and south on the eastern side of the Combles-Sailly-Saillisel valley. B and D Companies were then to pass through C Company and seize the western edge of St. Pierre Vaast Wood, 400 yards north-east of Rancourt.

The Battalion moved up to its assembly position during the evening of the 31st, and, except for the fact that the Medical Officer appears to have established his aid post well within the enemy lines some hours before zero, the forming up took place without incident.

Sharp to time on the 1st September, A Company, under Captain F. J. Gaywood, went forward. As they approached Le Priez Farm, some eighty of the enemy rushed out and occupied trenches in the vicinity. The farm was seized and fortified; and then, with valuable assistance from the trench-mortar batteries of the 55th and 142nd Brigades, the company began the task of rounding up the enemy in the neighbourhood. Heavy fighting went on for several hours; but by 1 p.m. the enemy garrison were dead or prisoners.

Meanwhile, Lieut. A. E. Spooner had led C Company past the south of the farm; and the work of clearing the area allotted to that company rapidly progressed. The area was a large one, and the task was rendered very difficult by the number of derelict trenches which provided cover for isolated snipers and machine guns. 2nd Lieut. H. B. Pullinger, a recently joined officer, who had served in another unit of the Division since September, 1914, was killed by one of these isolated posts; but casualties were not heavy. The clearing of this area and the establishment of C Company on their objective was a splendid performance and reflected the greatest credit upon the company and its commander.

B and D Companies followed closely on C Company's heels, and having eventually passed through, met with considerable opposition in front of Rancourt. Captain H. O'D. Macan (4th Battn. att'd.) fell mortally wounded at this stage, and died of his wounds in a casualty clearing station on the following day. His death was a great loss, for in the six months during which he had been with the Battalion he had proved himself an officer of great gallantry and untiring zeal.

Lieut. H. S. Todd now took over the general supervision of the two leading companies, who, after hard fighting, had won their way to their final objective. The position was consolidated at once, and other companies were moved up in close support. The night passed quietly, and at dawn on the 2nd September another brigade passed through to clear St. Pierre Vaast Wood.

Meanwhile the Battalion remained in its positions along the Peronne-Bapaume main road. During the 3rd September reports came in that the enemy was retiring rapidly, and the Battalion was ordered to hold itself in readiness to

go forward with the 55th Brigade as the advance guard of the 18th Division. These reports, however, proved to be somewhat premature, as the enemy was making desperate efforts to hold the crossings of the River Tortille, which flows southwards about three miles east of Rancourt to join the Somme near Peronne. These crossings were forced by the 7th Battn. "Queen's" on the morning of the 4th September; but the 55th Brigade was relieved that evening and ordered to march back to the Trones Wood area. On relief by the 9th Battn. Royal Fusiliers, the Battalion moved off accordingly by march route at 9.30 p.m., and after a short halt for a hot meal at Le Priez Farm continued its march via Combles and Leuze Wood, arriving in its new area at 2.30 a.m. on the 5th September.

In the operations of the 1st to 4th September the Battalion had captured 300 prisoners, one 77 mm. gun, a large number of machine guns and an excellent motor ambulance, in full running order, with driver and passengers complete. Yet casualties had been comparatively light. Two officers and 17 other ranks had been killed, and 3 officers and 75 other ranks wounded.

For his brilliant work in the capture of Le Priez Farm, Captain F. J. Gaywood received a second bar to his Military Cross. Captain P. G. Heath (attd. 55th T.M.B.) and Lieuts. H. S. Todd and E. J. Clift (Transport Officer) gained a first bar to that decoration; while 2nd Lieut. F. W. Blincowe, who was wounded in this action, received it for the first time. Company Sergt.-Major H. Gould and Sergts. W. T. Cleaves and C. Jenkerson were awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal; Cpl. F. Chitty gained a bar to his Military Medal; while this decoration was awarded for the first time to nine other ranks, viz. Cpl. F. Hill; Lce.-Cpls. E. Barsdell, W. G. Hall, W. Smith, G. F. Hilbourne and T. W. Knowles; Ptes. F. Hewitt, F. Robinson and F. J. Rossiter. Company Sergt.-Major R. Hopkins and Lce.-Cpl. E. Barsdell were also subsequently awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the periods 26th February to 16th September, 1918.

The Battalion had now been engaged in hard and continuous fighting, almost without a break, since 22nd August, during which time it had assisted in making good an advance of some seventeen miles. A pleasant "rest" was now anticipated, although the Trones Wood area did not at first sight appear to offer very suitable ground for recreative training. Within a couple of days, however, new football fields and a parade ground were cleared of wire, shell holes, etc., and a programme of training was arranged. Reinforcements arrived and were absorbed; a composite company, under Captain F. J. Gaywood was inspected and addressed by the Divisional Commander (Major-General R. P. Lee); whilst on the recreation side the Inter-Company Brigade Football Cup Final—overdue from the Oissy "rest" of July—was played off, the Headquarter Company team being beaten by a company of "The Buffs."

The "rest" came to an end on the 16th September, when the Battalion again moved eastwards and, after a long march through Combles, Rancourt and Nurlu, reached Longavesnes, some fourteen miles north-west of St. Quentin, where it bivouacked for two days. During this time hostile aircraft were par-

ticularly active, and, although no casualties were sustained, bombs fell with startling frequency round the Battalion area, in spite of the energetic action of its Lewis guns.

In the Battle of Havrincourt, which was fought on the 12th September, the Third Army had captured, in the neighbourhood of Cambrai, certain forward positions of the Hindenburg Line into which the enemy had now been driven. A further operation against similar forward positions in the vicinity of Epéhy was timed to begin at 5.30 a.m. on September 18th. On the front of the 18th Division, after the capture of Ronssoy by other troops, the 8th Battn. East Surrey, together with the 7th Battn. "The Buffs," were to pass through the village and capture the line Duncan Post-Doleful Post-Tombois Farm, a strongly fortified position of the Hindenburg Line about two miles short of the valley of the Upper Scheldt and the St. Quentin-Cambrai canal.

Moving off from its bivouacs near Longavesnes during the early part of the night of the 17th/18th September, the Battalion arrived in its assembly positions at Villers Faucon by 2 a.m. Here a heavy ground mist and a considerable amount of gas increased the difficulty of movement in the darkness; but the forming up was accomplished, and at length the attacking troops went forward. For the next two miles the Battalion followed them closely, in artillery formation; but on approaching Ronssoy, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin discovered that the garrison was putting up a most determined resistance. Fearing of losing the barrage for the second stage of the attack, he determined to endeavour to force his way round on the south side of the village, and thus by encircling the garrison, not only to render the capture of the village more immediate, but also to be able to form up his own Battalion on the prearranged positions at the scheduled time. The darkness and the dense mist rendered this movement exceedingly difficult, but A and C Companies in front, with B in close support, came successfully through this test of endurance and map-reading and arrived on the forming-up ground about 200 yards east of Ronssoy by 8.15 a.m., fifteen minutes before the barrage was to lead the attack forward to the final objective. Meanwhile, D Company, in Battalion Reserve, having lost its officers, was temporarily missing. Captain H. S. Todd, M.C., a most gallant and capable officer, had been killed during the advance towards Ronssoy, and his two subalterns (Lieuts. Freshwater and Ralph) wounded. A patrol, however, soon found the company, which, having lost touch in the wheeling movement round the village, had meanwhile joined in the frontal attack. After being rejoined by D Company, the Battalion, in touch with troops of the 74th Division on the right, began its forward movement shortly before 9 a.m. About 150 prisoners, a section of 4-in. howitzers and several machine guns were captured near Hussar Wood, the capture of the section, which was still in action, being a particularly fine piece of work for which 2nd Lieut. F. W. Lovell and a platoon of C Company were chiefly responsible. At this point the advance was checked. The left flank of the Battalion was completely exposed, and a withering machine-gun fire was being poured into it from the direction of the Ronssoy-Bony road.

The Brigade Commander, who had now joined the Commanding Officer,

immediately ordered "The Buffs" and "Queen's" to establish themselves on that flank, preparatory to a further advance of the whole Brigade at noon. By this time the German garrison of Ronssoy, being completely surrounded, had capitulated. Their continued presence there had created some curious local situations. At one stage, for example, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin, with a runner, Pte. F. G. Ambrose, in reconnoitring the route along which the reinforcing battalions should advance, came upon a Hun officer and thirty men some 700 yards within our lines, moving up to reinforce the Ronssoy garrison, having come in from the exposed left flank. As the result of a speedy surrender, these enemy reinforcements were deflected from Ronssoy to the Brigade "cage" at Villers Faucon.

Shortly before noon the enemy began to put down heavy barrages along the new front, which resulted in heavy casualties. Unfortunately, the attack arranged for that hour had been postponed till 5 p.m., and throughout the afternoon the hostile artillery fire continued. At 5 p.m. the whole of the 55th Brigade advanced, but the attack was only partially successful, as the enemy, in his highly organized positions, put up a determined resistance. It transpired afterwards that his line had been reinforced by a fresh division, which had been brought up to Bony by motor-buses that afternoon with orders to counter-attack the British positions at Ronssoy at 6 p.m. Although the attack by the 55th Brigade an hour earlier had not been very successful, it had succeeded, in conjunction with the supporting fire of the artillery, in frustrating the enemy's arrangements, and his losses had been very severe.

After dark, therefore, units were ordered to withdraw their advanced posts and establish themselves on a line running roughly north and south about half a mile east of Ronssoy. Lieut.-Colonel Irwin, who had severely injured his leg on an iron stake, sent Major Baddeley forward to organize the Battalion on that line. Two companies occupied Switch Trench, one company was in support in Shamrock Trench, while a forward Battalion Headquarters and one company were established in Hussar Road. "The Buffs" were on the left and the 25th Battrn. Royal Welch Fusiliers on the right.

At 2 a.m. on the 19th a further attack by troops on the left was supported on the 55th Brigade front by strong fighting patrols. These, however, met with desperate resistance and were eventually withdrawn. Towards evening S.O.S. signals went up on both flanks of the Battalion. The British barrage brought down a most intense enemy bombardment, and in a very short time heavy casualties were sustained. But no infantry attack developed. The night passed quietly, and at dawn on the 20th fighting patrols were again sent forward to make efforts to break into the enemy positions. Patrols, led by 2nd Lieut. G. E. Stedman and Cpl. W. G. Hall, were particularly successful. These succeeded in reaching Quenchettes Wood, where they were heavily fired upon from Duncan Avenue. Working their way forward, they rushed an enemy post and, killing the garrison, captured and disabled three machine guns. Meanwhile other patrols had worked with varying success along the road to Bony. Between 10 and 11.15 a.m. the enemy heavily bombarded Switch Trench and Hussar Road, but the

British artillery succeeded in reducing his barrage, and by 1.15 the front was again quiet.

At 3 p.m. a conference was held at Battalion Headquarters by the Brigade Commander, and as a result the Battalion was ordered to establish a line of posts from Quenchettes Wood to the Bony road, and to hold these until 4.35 a.m. on the following morning. Behind this line fresh troops were to form up for a new assault on the enemy's positions, their attack being timed for 5.40 a.m. on the 21st September.

The Battalion accomplished this task without much difficulty, and at 4.35 the garrisons were withdrawn from the posts. After the attack had gone forward the whole Battalion was withdrawn into Ronssoy, where accommodation was found in excellent shelters and cellars. Here it remained for four days in the rôle of counter-attack troops; but although the enemy launched a big attack upon our forward positions during the afternoon of the 22nd, the Battalion was not called upon to act. A draft of 6 officers and 170 other ranks joined during the stay at Ronssoy, and on the evening of the 24th September the Battalion was relieved by the 106th Battalion of American troops and marched back to Leuze Wood, near Guillemont.

During the heavy fighting of the previous week the Battalion had suffered the loss of Captains H. S. Todd, M.C. (4th Battn. attd.) and E. H. Harrison (5th Battn. attd.), both most able and energetic company commanders, and 23 other ranks killed; while 9 officers—Lieut.-Colonel Irwin and 2nd Lieuts. R. Chart, E. H. Colebrook, J. Freshwater, G. James, F. W. Lovell, M. L. Ralph, J. E. C. Stroud and G. E. Stedman—and 106 other ranks had been wounded. Yet a great work had been accomplished, as the positions required for an attack on the Hindenburg Line had been secured, and the Battalion had good reason to be proud of its share in the achievement. Lieut.-Colonel A. P. B. Irwin was awarded a second bar to his Distinguished Service Order for his daring and initiative on the morning of the 18th; 2nd Lieuts. E. H. Colebrook, F. W. Lovell, G. E. Stedman, C. J. Whyntie and Lieut. W. Hickey (R.A.M.C.) received the Military Cross; Sergt. F. C. Hill, Cpl. W. Hall and Pte. F. G. Ambrose the Distinguished Conduct Medal; Ptes. E. Cavill and W. H. Gardner a bar to their Military Medal; while fifteen other ranks received the Military Medal, viz. Sergts. H. Jackman, V. P. Marsden, A. J. Pond and H. Thomas; Cpls. C. Peters and J. Turner; Lce.-Cpl. F. Benstead; Ptes. W. Brown, H. Bullard, S. Dalby, H. J. Gimbert, M. Lockwood, W. Stevens, C. W. Warner and J. T. Wood.

Until the afternoon of the 28th the Battalion remained at Leuze Wood, resting and reorganizing. At 8.30 that evening a motor-bus column arrived and carried the Battalion to Saulcourt, four miles north-west of Ronssoy, in time to take part in the opening phase of the operations which culminated on the 5th October in the capture of the last systems of the Hindenburg Line.

An attack by the Fourth Army had been planned for the morning of 29th September, the rôle of the 18th Division being to clear long stretches of open country intersected with a maze of wire and trenches, which ran down to Vendhuille, three miles north-east of Ronssoy. The village of Vendhuille had also to

be captured, together with the adjacent crossings of the Cambrai-St. Quentin canal. It was not, however, until the morning of the 30th that the 8th Battrn. East Surrey came into action. Throughout the day the companies pushed their way slowly towards the canal. Towards evening A and B Companies had established themselves in Vendhuile Trench, close to the village, C Company being in support in Macquincourt Trench, and D Company in reserve on "the Knoll." At night both forward companies patrolled as far as the canal, but the enemy continued to hold the eastern bank in force, and Putney, opposite Vendhuile, was well garrisoned. His artillery, too, was very active.

Throughout the following day, 1st October, the Battalion kept close watch on the enemy's movements, for a general withdrawal was anticipated. At night, however, a Divisional relief took place, and by 6.15 a.m. on the 2nd the Battalion had withdrawn to the open country behind Ronssoy. After a brief halt for breakfast, a short march brought the Battalion to an "embussing" point, whence "a penny all the way" bus column, proceeding via Lieramont, Rancourt, Trones Wood and Albert, eventually transported it by 5 p.m. into the Contay area, about eight miles west of Albert.

Behencourt was the village allotted to the Battalion, and here an exceedingly pleasant fortnight was spent. The billets were good; excellent programmes of sport and training were carried out, a guard-mounting competition producing both a healthy rivalry between companies and some very smart "turn-outs." A Brigade Race Meeting on the 13th was a great success; and the Battalion band played frequently on the village green to very appreciative audiences.

During the 16th October, however, preliminary orders were received for a move by tactical train to the Nurlu-Villers Faucon area. The Battalion entrained at Heilly on the following day, and arriving at Roisel railhead at 6 a.m. on the 18th, marched off to Longavesnes, where the transport had already arrived. Soon after noon the move forward was continued; and, marching through such well-known spots as Villers Faucon, High Street Ronssoy, and Bony, the Battalion eventually arrived by 8 p.m. at Beaurevoir, which lies three miles east of the Cambrai-St. Quentin canal, and beyond the last system of the Hindenburg Line, which had been captured on the 5th October. After a most uncomfortable night in shattered billets, the march was continued north-eastwards along the Bavai road, and at noon on the 19th, Elincourt was reached, a village over which the War had passed extremely lightly.

Whilst the 18th Division, which now belonged to the XIII Corps, had been "resting" in the Contay area the enemy had yielded his last hold of the Hindenburg Line and had withdrawn to new positions along the River Selle about Le Cateau, some fifteen miles east of Cambrai. From these positions he had just been ousted in the first stage of the Battle of the Selle, and the 18th Division was now required to continue the advance to the Forêt de Mormal, as part of the main operations for the attainment of the general line Valenciennes-Forêt de Mormal-Sambre et Oise Canal.

Having marched to Maurois on the afternoon of the 21st, at 11 p.m. on the following evening the 8th Battrn. East Surrey, under Major Baddeley, moved off

to its rendezvous near Montay (close to Le Cateau) for the great action of the 23rd October.

The rôle of the 55th Brigade, temporarily commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Irwin was to exploit the initial successes of the other brigades of the 18th Division (who were to attack from the line of the railway running north from Le Cateau towards Solesmes) and to establish itself in positions just east of the Landrecies-Le Quesnoy road, on the western edge of the Forêt de Mormal. Zero hour was fixed for 1 a.m., and within half an hour of that time both the 8th Battn. East Surrey and the 7th Battn. "The Buffs," the leading troops of the 55th Brigade, were to be clear of the bridge over the River Selle at Montay.

It was a beautiful moonlight night and the front was very quiet when the Battalion moved off from its rendezvous. Montay was reached just at zero hour, and the enemy bombardment of that village, which commenced a few minutes later, was just avoided. Once across the river, a tedious wait of several hours was on the programme. For a time, indeed, it seemed that the Battalion would be entangled in the early stages of the battle, for on the left, where the crossing of the river had been made, zero was not till 1.30 a.m. At length, however, the attack went forward, and the Battalion was able to move towards its forming-up positions. There were several casualties at this stage, and 2nd Lieut. C. B. Marks, M.C., commanding C Company, was killed by shell fire.

As dawn broke, the advance began in a north-easterly direction, "The Buffs" being in close touch on the left. At first the movement resembled a parade-ground exercise as the two battalions advanced in extended lines or artillery formation across the open country. By 8 a.m., with B and C Companies in front, the Battalion reached the enclosed country near Bousies, and the fences broke up the hitherto regular advance. Fayt Farm was captured and but little other resistance was experienced until the outskirts of Bousies were reached. There had, however, been some considerable amount of enfilade machine-gun fire on the right flank, which had eventually been silenced by the fire of the Tanks operating with the Battalion, but not before C Company had suffered heavy losses, including 2nd Lieut. A. H. Osborn, a recently joined officer, who was killed.

At this stage A and D Companies passed through and proceeded to clear Bousies. A Company, under Lieut. W. F. C. Embley, in touch on the left with "The Buffs," pushed rapidly on, sending back several detachments of prisoners, and eventually succeeded in establishing a line on the east of the village. D Company, under Lieut. C. J. Whyntie, on the right, made similar progress, although their advance was temporarily impeded by a completely exposed right flank. Several patrols were sent out in that direction in an endeavour to obtain touch with other troops, but with no result. Two Tanks, therefore, were sent to cover the advance of that company, and these did valuable work in clearing several nests of machine guns whose enfilade fire had harassed D Company's movements.

Other troops now came up on that flank, and a further advance was anticipated. Scouts from A and D Companies, however, reported the existence of a line of enemy posts, well wired and apparently well garrisoned, about half-way

between Bousies and Robersart. These reports proved to be accurate, and as the day was now well advanced it was decided to stand fast and to continue the advance at dawn on the following morning.

During the day the Battalion had realized for the first time the joy of releasing French civilians from the yoke of the enemy. Although the greater proportion of the inhabitants of Bousies had been temporarily removed by the Germans to villages further east, and were to be released by us a few days later, some had remained in cellars in Bousies during the British attack.

Fresh troops were now sent up to continue the advance at dawn on the 24th. The countryside east of Bousies was intersected by hedges, in which gaps had been carefully prepared by the enemy and covered by rifle and machine-gun fire. Progress was exceedingly difficult, and throughout the 24th and 25th October fighting went on in this area. On the latter day the Battalion took over the left portion of the Brigade front, and B Company, under Captain B. D. Ogden, made desperate efforts to get forward. At length the line Renuart Farm-Robersart was seized and held; and in a further effort to get to the Landrecies road, 2nd Lieut. F. A. Staley (3rd Battn. attd.) was killed while attacking some farm buildings which were being stubbornly defended. During the night of the 25th the Battalion was again relieved, but remained in the eastern outskirts of Bousies in support to the other two battalions of the 55th Brigade.

Since the morning of the 23rd October the Battalion had materially assisted in an advance of more than five miles, four of which had been gained during the first day; and it had taken sixty unwounded prisoners (including two officers) and twelve guns, as well as an enormous amount of miscellaneous material. At the same time casualties had been somewhat heavy, especially on the 25th and 26th. Three officers and 25 other ranks had been killed; while 2nd Lieuts. R. W. Conibeer, C. F. Lyons and G. H. Sargent and 160 other ranks had been wounded.

For acts of gallantry during these operations, Captain B. D. Ogden received a bar to the Military Cross; Captain C. D. Thacker (5th Battn. attd.), Lieut. G. J. C. Welch (attd. 55th Brigade Staff), 2nd Lieuts. R. W. Conibeer, G. H. Sargent and G. L. Williams the Military Cross. Lce.-Cpls. G. F. Holbourne and G. T. Mapston each received the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and Cpl. T. Taylor a bar to the Military Medal. The following other ranks received that decoration for the first time:—Lce.-Sergt. S. Hall; Lce.-Cpls. E. Payne and T. E. Wood; Ptes. J. Bolger, J. Beach, G. E. Fletcher, W. A. C. Fossey, J. Freeman, T. A. Gallyer, G. F. Hailey, F. H. Moss, A. Quelch, H. Summerhill and A. Winearls.

After a brief respite the Battalion again moved into the line on the evening of the 29th for a forty-eight hours' tour of duty. This was a period of active patrolling in the neighbourhood of Hecq, a small village on the western edge of the Mormal Forest. The village was filled with French refugees who had congregated there from Le Cateau and Bousies, and every window and chimney was decorated with poles from which hung sheets and white articles of attire. The presence of these civilians rendered offensive operations somewhat difficult,

especially as the enemy had no compunction about using the bedroom windows, or loopholes in the wall of occupied houses, from which to shoot at our patrols.

On relief, on the 31st October, the Battalion moved back to quarters on the west of Bousies at Epinette Farm, for which the 7th Battn. "The Buffs" had fought desperately and at heavy cost in the advance of the 23rd October. Here several days were spent. The troops found plenty of opportunities for rest and "cleaning up," and some open-air hot baths in tarpaulin sheets were a great triumph of the Quartermaster's ingenuity.

Meanwhile the capture of Valenciennes on the 1st November opened the way for another extended attack by the Fourth, Third and First Armies, which was fixed to commence on the 4th November and had a front of some thirty miles, extending from Valenciennes to the River Sambre, some ten miles south of Mormal Forest. In this attack the Battalion entered on its last action of the War. Early on the 4th November the other brigades of the 18th Division had attacked the enemy positions west of the forest. In Preux, which was strongly garrisoned, the Germans put up a determined resistance for some hours; and it was not until afternoon that the village was captured and all opposition west of the forest was overcome.

Meanwhile the Battalion, with two attached sections of the Machine Gun Battalion, had moved forward to Renuart Farm. At 2 p.m. the "Queen's" and "The Buffs" were ordered to advance into the forest and establish themselves on their objective; and the 8th Battn. East Surrey followed close on their heels, entering the forest by the Route de Preux, the central avenue running north-east. Realizing that darkness would come very early in the closely wooded "drives," Major Baddeley ordered A Company, under Captain F. J. Gaywood, to move forward as quickly as possible, as the advance guard of the Battalion, and a determined effort to be made by all companies to reach before dark their final objective on the road running south from Locquignol, about three and a half miles east of Preux. Two armoured cars greatly facilitated the advance, and little serious opposition was experienced. B Company, in wheeling on to its final line, came upon a battery of 77 mm. guns still in action along one of the drives, and had the satisfaction of rushing the position and capturing the guns and their crews.

By 6 p.m. the objective had been gained in its entirety, although it was not till 2.30 a.m. on the 5th that C Company was able to get into touch with troops on the right and establish a prearranged liaison post with them. Battalion Headquarters had been established in a small forester's cottage on the Route de Preux, where telephonic communication was established with Brigade Headquarters in Preux by wires laid by a Signal Tank which had followed the Battalion.

Throughout the night enemy machine-gun fire was very active; and an enemy patrol stumbled upon a post held by a platoon of D Company, by whom they were quickly overcome.

The advance was to be continued at dawn. Two batteries R.F.A., a company of cyclists, some yeomanry and a machine-gun detachment, together with the 8th Battn. East Surrey, were to form the advance guard, Major W. H.

Baddeley being the commander. These units reported during the night, and by 6.30 a.m. the column moved forward through the forest.

Preceded by the mounted scouts, companies leap-frogged each other from drive to drive. Little opposition was met with, although Major Baddeley and the Adjutant, Captain C. D. Thacker, in taking a short cut with a small party of the Headquarters personnel, came upon an isolated machine-gun post. Three of the crew were shot, but the remainder made off, only to be captured by scouts of A Company some minutes later.

Eventually the eastern edge of the forest was reached at a point opposite Sassegny. Beyond that village were the railway from Maubeuge and the River Sambre, both of which skirted the forest as far as Landrecies, which lies close to its southernmost corner. The seizure of this line was the first objective of the advance guard, and this task was accomplished by 11.45 a.m.

The villagers of Sassegny gave the Battalion a warm welcome; and the supplies of coffee and hot potatoes, that were soon forthcoming, threatened to delay its further advance. Near the railway station a party of B Company, under Lieut. Embley, rushed an enemy machine-gun post, capturing the crews and their two guns; and several of the enemy, who had been left behind to blow up the saw-mills, were killed either by the explosions or by British troops.

All the bridges over the Sambre had been destroyed by the enemy during the previous night, but several patrols succeeded in crossing the river over the *débris*. Away to the right of the Battalion's front, beyond the river, enemy batteries were still in action against the division advancing on that flank, their advance on the previous day having been considerably slower than that of the 18th Division, as the enemy had defended the crossings of the river at Landrecies with the utmost determination. These German batteries were soon engaged by our Lewis guns and attached machine guns, and, after a few return compliments, they ceased firing and the gunners fled.

At this juncture orders were received for the Battalion to stand fast on the line of the River Sambre. The patrols which had crossed were therefore withdrawn and were used to cover the bridge-heads on which Royal Engineers were now busily working.

Troops on both flanks of the Battalion continued to press forward, and by the evening of the 6th November they had joined across the Battalion's front. Thus squeezed out, the Battalion remained in Sassegny until the following morning, when it marched back to Preux along roads filled with advancing troops and guns, and the next day proceeded to Pommereuil, near Le Cateau.

Since going into action on the 4th November the Battalion, at a cost of 4 other ranks killed and 15 wounded, had pushed its way through the extensive Mormal Forest; it had captured ten guns and many machine guns, together with some twenty prisoners.

For gallantry during these operations, Lieut. G. J. C. Welch (Royal Berks Regt. att'd.) received the Military Cross, and the Military Medal was awarded to Company Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. G. L. Riviers, Sergt. W. Hinkley, Lce.-Cpl. A. Crisp and Ptes. E. Elsdon, C. Jermy and C. W. Pollard.

On the morning of 11th November, whilst still anticipating orders for another forward move, the Battalion received official notice of the Armistice. At 11 a.m. a Battalion parade was held in the main street of Pommereuil; the buglers sounded the "Stand Fast," and the band played the National Anthem and the Marseillaise. Those who were present will not soon forget the scene—the tears of the inhabitants released from four years' enemy occupation; the impressive silence; the unexpressed gratitude; the looks of pride of men who had won through. Victory had been long delayed; but it had come at last.

CHAPTER XX

AUGUST, 1918, TO NOVEMBER, 1918: THE 9TH BATTALION NEAR LENS: IT MOVES TO THE CAMBRAI AREA IN TIME TO TAKE PART IN THE BATTLE OF CAMBRAI, 1918, AND THE BATTLE OF THE SELLE: IN THE BATTLE OF THE SAMBRE AT BAVAI, WHERE IT RECEIVES THE NEWS OF THE ARMISTICE.

THE 9th Battn. East Surrey, when its reorganization after its heavy losses in the German Offensives, 1918, was completed, had returned, as related in Chapter XIII, to the Lens area, there to take its share in the three months of active defence which intervened before the initiative passed to the Allies about the middle of July.

During August the Battalion had two tours of duty, each lasting six days, in the right sector St. Emile, the tours commencing on the 13th and 25th. The periods intervening between the tours were passed either in support at Cité St. Pierre or in reserve at Bully Grenay. There was much air activity during the month, particularly at night, and on the 28th the Battalion's Lewis guns brought down a low-flying hostile aeroplane.

The effect of the British successes further south in the Battle of Amiens was beginning to be felt in the Lens area, and on the 19th August the 72nd Brigade took over a wider front, putting two battalions in first line with two in support.

On August 31st, as it was suspected that the enemy had withdrawn from Lens, the Battalion sent out two officers' patrols. One, under 2nd Lieut. V. C. Bates, came on a German working party and was fired on by machine guns, but withdrew without loss. The other, under 2nd Lieut. H. V. Kerckhove, was not so fortunate, meeting the enemy's barrage and having 1 man killed and 7 wounded. The casualties during the month were 3 men killed and 11 wounded.

On 1st September, when the Second Battles of the Somme, 1918, were nearly ended, the Battalion, in consequence of a report that the enemy had evacuated Lens, sent forward daylight patrols, which penetrated to the Cité St. Auguste road, but were driven in later by superior forces. Five more patrols were pushed forward at night, two of which succeeded in establishing communication with the Royal West Kent patrols which had pushed forward as far as Fosse No. 1, near the point where the roads from Béthune and La Bassée join and enter Lens. About the same time the 9th Battn. East Surrey established in the enemy's front line some posts which, though driven back at dawn on the 2nd, were the first British posts in Lens since its capture by the Germans in 1914.

During the night of the 2nd more posts were established in the enemy's front line, and during the morning of the 3rd September the Germans attempted to capture them. "After a heavy bombardment with guns and 'minenwerfer,' the enemy attacked in considerable force. The two officers who were present became casualties almost at once, and Pte. MacNamara proved himself a hero

and was the spirit of the defence throughout. He not only did his own task, but he induced other men by his example to do theirs. He moved about freely, urging everyone to 'stick it,' which they did. . . . Pte. MacNamara showed the most supreme courage and powers of leadership and right nobly earned the highest distinction which His Majesty can award." (24th Divisional Special Order, dated 24/11/18.) Unfortunately, Pte. J. MacNamara did not survive to know that the Victoria Cross had been conferred upon him, as he was killed at Haussy on the 16th October, 1918. In this engagement the two first German attacks were driven off; but a third was made about 1 p.m. in great force and the left posts were temporarily lost, until Lieut.-Colonel Cameron led a party forward and reoccupied them. Among the casualties was the Adjutant, Captain W. H. Lindsay, M.C., who was visiting the posts and was killed while standing up to overwhelming odds in a manner to increase even his reputation for courage and devotion to duty. His body was brought in by Pte. MacNamara and Lieut.-Colonel Cameron.

More fighting took place in the early morning of the 5th, but the Battalion's posts were held and were strengthened during the night. Pte. Hammond (A Company), who had been reported missing on the 5th, managed to rejoin on the 6th, having had a remarkable escape from capture. He had made good use of his eyes, and brought in useful information of the enemy's movements. The Battalion was relieved in the evening of the 6th and went back to Bully Grenay, where on the 7th a military funeral was given to Captain Lindsay and the four men killed with him. They were buried in the Aix Noulette Cemetery, in the presence of the whole Battalion, the Brigadier and Brigade Major. The Battalion remained at Bully Grenay, carrying out training for open fighting, until September 12th, when it took over the new right sector St. Emile, without casualty.

On the 13th, the enemy's front was thoroughly explored in the morning by patrols under Captain High, 2nd Lieut. Service and 2nd Lieut. Tucker. Casualties were inflicted on the enemy by 2nd Lieut. Service's patrol at the Gibraltar Château, where the sentry was shot by Lce.-Cpl. Harrison, and some of the garrison killed or wounded by bombs thrown by 2nd Lieut. Service. These daylight patrols elicited from the Corps Commander a special order complimenting all concerned on their initiative and boldness in penetrating into Lens as far as "The Church." The Battalion remained in the line without further incident of note until the night of September 15th, when it was relieved, owing to the right sector of the 72nd Brigade being taken over by the 73rd Brigade. The Battalion moved into Cité St. Pierre, and on the night of the 16th relieved the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt. in the right sector of the Brigade front as readjusted.

On the night of September 18th the Battalion was relieved by the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. and moved to the left sector. On September 20th a patrol of one platoon, under 2nd Lieut. Tucker, did very good work, having a sharp fight with the enemy. The patrol went out twice and had a man wounded on each occasion. Patrols also went out in the nights of the 21st, 22nd and 23rd,

208 THE 24TH DIVISION MOVES TO THE CAMBRAI AREA

one man being killed on the last night. His body was brought in by a small patrol on the 24th, on which evening the Battalion was relieved in the line after a long and varied tour of duty, and went to rest at Bully Grenay. Here it remained until the 28th, when on relief of the Division the Battalion went by motor lorry to Ohlain Camp, where it was quartered in huts. On September 30th the Battalion left Ohlain at 5.30 a.m. and marched to Hersin, where it entrained for Mondicourt, near Doullens. Thence it marched to billets at Beaudricourt.

The following remarks by Major-General Daly, C.B., Commanding 24th Division, on the work of the Battalion during the month, were published and gave great pleasure to all ranks:—

“ The initiative and enterprise shown by this Battalion is most marked. All this patrol-work spirit of adventure, which appears now to be second nature in all ranks of the Battalion, is excellent for *morale*. The C.O. and Second-in-Command are much to be congratulated.

A. C. DALY,

Major-General,

Commander 24th Division.

9th Battalion East Surrey Regiment.”

“ You know what I think about the work and spirit of the Battalion. You can now see what the Divisional Commander thinks.

R. W. MORGAN,

Brigadier-General,

Commander 72nd Infantry Brigade.”

The casualties during September were:—

Killed : Captain W. H. Lindsay, M.C., and 11 other ranks.

Wounded : Lieut. G. L. G. Churcher, 2nd Lieut. W. S. Kelly and 32 other ranks.

Gassed : 7 other ranks.

Missing : 8 other ranks.

The Battalion remained at Beaudricourt during the first five days of October, carrying out progressive training with a special view to expected operations. These it was hinted, rather than plainly stated, were likely to take the form of open fighting—a welcome suggestion. The good people of Beaudricourt at first assumed a hostile attitude to the Battalion, but this feeling soon wore off. Early on October 6th the Battalion marched to Mondicourt, whence it moved by train to Ribecourt (six miles south-west of Cambrai), arriving there at 4.15 p.m. The Battalion then marched to Graincourt and bivouacked for the night outside the village.

At the time of the arrival of the 9th Battn. East Surrey in the Cambrai area the general situation there was as follows: The advance of the Fourth, Third and First Armies, which commenced on the 27th September, on a front

extending northwards from Selency (two miles west of St. Quentin) to the River Sensée at Ecourt St. Quentin (eight miles north-west of Cambrai), had resulted in the "Breaking of the Hindenburg Line" and the capture of its main defences. By the 1st October, British troops had occupied Blécourt, two miles to the north, and Rumilly, three miles to the south, of Cambrai. The 9th Battn. East Surrey had thus arrived in the area in time to join in "The Advance to Victory, 1918," and to take part in the Battle of Cambrai, 1918, in which the Germans were driven from Cambrai eastwards across the River Selle.

On the 7th October the Battalion marched to Cantaing, and on the following day moved up to trenches near Rumilly. At 3.30 p.m. on the 8th a further move north-eastwards was begun, in order to relieve a battalion of the 63rd Division in a position beyond the village of Niergnies. During this march, however, the battalion which was to be relieved was pushed back slightly by a German counter-attack. This was reported by the Adjutant, Captain Janion, who had gone forward to establish Battalion Headquarters, and Lieut.-Colonel Cameron at once ordered D Company to reinforce, and went forward with it to re-establish the line. The remaining three companies then came up and stopped the enemy's advance before it had reached the village. During the night the Battalion was heavily shelled. At 5.20 a.m. on the 9th the advance was resumed, and the Battalion, meeting with very little opposition, took its objective, the village of Awoingt (two miles south-east of Cambrai), where it remained for the remainder of the day and during the night. During the day one company was sent forward to support the cavalry, and another into Cambrai to link up with the Canadian troops who had entered the town from the north, and to round up German stragglers. Another company was employed in filling in shell holes in the neighbouring roads. Awoingt was shelled in the afternoon and 2nd Lieut. G. C. Ridley was severely wounded. This day the Battalion captured five field guns and one machine gun. On October 10th the 72nd Brigade was in reserve, and the Battalion marched with it to Cauroir (two miles east of Cambrai), where it went into billets. On the 11th the advance was continued north-eastwards to a point near Rieux, where the Battalion dug itself in for the night. At noon on the 12th the Battalion advanced to Avesnes-lez-Aubert and went into billets for the night, moving forward again in the afternoon of the 13th to St. Aubert, where it went into billets. Here the Battalion lay on the 14th, the front line of the Brigade being formed by the 1st Battn. North Stafford Regt. and 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt., opposite the village of Haussey, on the River Selle, ten miles east by north of Cambrai.

Early on October 15th, Lieut.-Colonel Cameron, with Lieut. E. G. Birtles (Intelligence Officer) and 2nd Lieut. C. S. Irons (Signalling Officer), went forward to reconnoitre. Lieut.-Colonel Cameron soon found an ideal position for bridging the River Selle at a point where the stream was narrow and well hidden by trees. This being reported to the Brigade and Division, the Battalion was ordered to attack at 5.15 a.m. on the 16th and capture Haussey. A company commanders' conference was held, and it was decided that B and D Companies should attack, with C to "mop up." A Company was lent to the 1st Battn.

North Stafford Regt. to form a defensive flank. Battalion Headquarters and the commanders of the two attacking companies (Captains Whiteman and Maingot) then went forward to the outskirts of Haussy, and a light bridge was brought up by a party of Royal Engineers, under Lieut. Dean. It proved to be too short, so a hand-cart was carried noiselessly down to the bank and slipped quietly into the river. With a ladder and some loose planks the bridge was then completed, and Captains Whiteman and Maingot crossed over and reconnoitred the ground in front. An enemy machine-gun team was run into within 100 yards of the bridge, but the officers escaped.

During the early hours of October 16th the three companies marched down to the bridge in small parties, and so crossed the river and reached their forming-up positions. All were across at the appointed time. The scheme now was for B Company, under Captain Whiteman, to push forward rapidly under the creeping barrage and to capture Haussy and a sunken road on the ridge just beyond it. C Company was to follow and mop up the village. This programme was brilliantly carried out. The enemy had barricaded the roads and held all walls, but the men fought splendidly and captured their objectives with slight loss. 2nd Lieuts. F. Taylor and G. C. Goddard and 17 men were killed in the attack, and several other ranks were wounded. B Company then made good the captured position, while C cleared the village, in which 285 prisoners had been counted by noon; 18 combatant and 1 medical officer were included in the number. The enemy's loss in killed was about 150.

About noon two platoons of A Company rejoined at Battalion Headquarters under 2nd Lieut. D. W. Keep, who was killed by a shell while reporting. Meanwhile the enemy's fire had become very heavy, and about 2 p.m. information arrived that the enemy had broken through to the right of the position held by the Battalion, and firing was heard in the village itself. A company of Coldstream Guards coming up to reinforce was caught in the enemy's barrage. Every available man with Battalion Headquarters was posted to hold walls and banks along the west bank of the Selle, and a Lewis gun was posted to secure the bridge. The German barrage continued to be extremely heavy, and presently their infantry was seen opposite in great strength. It soon became clear that the companies east of the river had been overwhelmed. The Germans from their right had got round between them and the river, and their only choice was to be destroyed or fight their way back through the river. A considerable number succeeded in rejoining Headquarters by swimming and wading the river; but many were captured, and some were shot or drowned while crossing. 2nd Lieut. Nielson, the Trench Mortar Officer, who had done excellent work in the morning, was among the missing, as was 2nd Lieut. W. H. Baber. The total number missing was 134.

Pte. J. Johnson, M.M., for his gallantry in attacking a machine-gun nest on this day and capturing ten prisoners, and subsequently covering the withdrawal of his company across the river, was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Captain R. L. Wallace (R.A.M.C.), who had shown great gallantry in tending the wounded at Niergnies on the 8th October, again distinguished himself at

Haussy, and it was owing to his fine devotion to duty that a large proportion of the wounded were brought in. For these gallant services he was awarded the Military Cross.

During the night the remains of the Battalion, only about a quarter of its fighting strength before the action, was relieved by the 7th Battn. Northampton Regt. and retired to billets at St. Aubert, where it arrived early on October 17th. After resting till 2 p.m. the Battalion moved back to Cambrai and turned into billets at 7 p.m. for a well-earned night's rest. The Battalion remained at Cambrai for a week, carrying on training as usual and working vigorously at the task of clearing and cleaning the area in which it was quartered.

On the 20th October the 19th Division forced the line of the River Selle, and Haussy was recaptured. In Haussy were found the bodies of several East Surrey men missing on the 16th. Lieut. A. E. Williams, who had been wounded and missing on that day, but had succeeded in concealing himself from the enemy, was also found and brought back to Cambrai. On the 21st October, Lieut.-Colonel Cameron left on four days' leave to England, Major Hilton taking temporary command during his absence. On the 23rd a draft of 48 men arrived, and on the following day Captain Janion took over command of C Company, Captain Naunton succeeding him in the Adjutancy.

On the 26th October the Battalion moved forward again to Avesnes-lez-Aubert and went into billets. The remainder of the month was without incident, so far as the Battalion was concerned. The casualties during the month were:—

Killed : 2nd Lieuts. G. C. Goddard, D. W. Keep and F. Taylor and 40 other ranks.

Wounded : Lieut. A. E. Williams; 2nd Lieuts. G. C. Ridley and H. B. Smith and 100 other ranks.

Gassed : 2nd Lieut. N. G. Harrison and 12 other ranks.

Missing : 2nd Lieuts. W. H. Baber and A. C. Nielson and 121 other ranks.

Training was carried on during November 1st, and early on the 2nd the Battalion moved forward to Haussy, where it took over billets from a battalion of the 73rd Brigade. A large number of the inhabitants of Haussy were arriving and were supplied with British rations, the Battalion helping by giving up here and at other places later on 10 per cent of its rations.

The morning of November 3rd was occupied in preparations for the final decisive attack delivered by the Fourth, Third and First Armies, which lasted from the 4th till the 11th November, and is known as the Battle of the Sambre. The Battalion was warned to be ready to move off at an hour's notice, but later the order was changed and 6.30 a.m. on November 4th was made the starting time. On the 4th November the 24th Division was in reserve, and the advance of the Battalion from Haussy to rejoin it began punctually at 6.30. The companies moved off at five minutes' interval and advanced across country to Sepmeries (six miles south of Valenciennes), where they found the remainder of the 72nd Brigade. Orders were received that on the following day the Battalion was to proceed to Wargnies-Le-Grand. Accordingly, on the 5th November

the Battalion advanced again across country, starting at 10.45 a.m. The ground had been won on the previous day by other units of the 24th Division, and the enemy's dead, captured machine guns and "minenwerfer" were to be seen lying about. The weather was very wet. The Battalion went into billets at Wargnies and the men had a good night's rest.

Early on November 6th orders were received to advance, as the 72nd Brigade was now in support of the 17th Brigade. The Battalion marched off at 6 a.m. along the St. Waast road and halted at La Bois Crette in pouring rain. Unfortunately a shell, which fell among D Company, caused a number of casualties: 7 men were killed, 2 mortally wounded and 7 others wounded by it. At 3 p.m. the Brigadier sent the Battalion back to Wargnies-Le-Grand, where orders were received at 10 p.m. that it would attack at 6 a.m. the following morning. There was little rest therefore, for anyone, as a very early start was necessary.

The Battalion, in fact, moved off by companies at 2 a.m. on November 7th, and by 6 a.m. had taken up its position in the front line at the Ferme de Cambron, the starting-point. The movement of other troops prevented a barrage, but the enemy offered hardly any opposition except by fairly heavy shelling by big guns. Although he had blown up many bridges and had "cratered" several cross-roads, the advance was rapid. The Battalion moved at first along the main road to Bavai, which town was the objective; but after crossing the River Sart it left the road and its line of advance then ran south-east to the farm of La Boete. East of this farm a brook was crossed and the Brigade formed up for attack, the 9th Battn. East Surrey on the right and the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. on the left. The Guards Division was away on the right, but not very near, their objective being Louvignies. The leading platoons of the 9th East Surrey entered the outskirts of Bavai, which is thirteen miles south-west of Mons, about 8 a.m. and received a warm welcome from the inhabitants, who informed them that the Germans had cleared out some hours before, after destroying the railway bridge. The road bridge, however, was fortunately left intact in the hurry of departure. For "fearless reconnaissances carried out well in front of the forward patrols" during the advance on Bavai, Captain C. Hilton was awarded the Military Cross. The enemy shortly began to shell the town heavily, but the 9th Battn. East Surrey pushed quickly through, mopping up a few German soldiers who had managed to get left behind, and by 2 p.m. reached its final objective at the cost of a few casualties. None of the German infantry showed any fight, and a machine-gun post concealed in the cemetery remained hidden till 4.30 p.m., when it disclosed its position and made a tame surrender.

When the whole Battalion was clear of the town it took up a line covering the Bavai-Maubeuge road, where the men were given some welcome rest. Later in the afternoon a battery of Horse Artillery took up a position in front, so the Battalion again got on the move and advanced in extended order on both sides of the Maubeuge road. One of the advanced patrols came in touch with the German rearguard on the outskirts of La Longueville just as darkness was closing in, so an outpost line was formed on the west bank of L'Hogneau rivulet, two miles east of Bavai. The Battalion was now some miles beyond its intended final

THE 9TH BATTN. REACHES THE MAUBEUGE-MONS ROAD 213

position, but, thanks to the good Staff work of the Brigade, the company cooks were brought up and a hot meal was provided for all. Lieut.-Colonel Cameron was now appointed to the command of the Bavai sector, and Major Hilton assumed command of the Battalion.

At 6 a.m. on November 8th the advance was continued, the 1st Bttn. North Stafford Regt. passing through the Battalion and advancing through La Longueville, whence the Germans had withdrawn during the night. The Battalion followed in support of the North Staffords to La Longueville and then to Le Gros Chêne, where shelter for the night was found in barns and other buildings. 2nd Lieut. C. S. Irons was awarded the Military Cross for bold patrol work on this day.

On November 9th the Battalion was ordered to relieve the 8th Bttn. Royal West Kent Regt. in the front line at 6 a.m. The relief was effected north of Feignies, and the Battalion then pushed forwards towards the Maubeuge-Mons road. The advance was made on a two-platoon front, everything being clear and quiet, with no sign of the enemy. On entering the outskirts of Feignies there was the now familiar scene of welcome from the liberated inhabitants. "On clearing the village," writes a platoon commander, "we re-formed and got into touch with the Staffords on our right. We then again advanced, the weather being perfect. It was here that I saw a thing that I never expected to see—open warfare exactly as it appears in the text-books. We were advancing in beautiful extended order at five paces; our right was correctly aligned on our objective, the Fort de Leveau. We were in touch with the Staffords on our right and with the West Kents on the left; while, looking back, the country for miles was covered with perfectly aligned lines of men advancing. The weather was gorgeous, and there was no opposition except for one easily silenced machine gun on the left."

After clearing the Bois des Sarts the Battalion advanced in artillery formation until it reached the Maubeuge-Mons road at La Banlieue. Here B and D Companies halted, A and C Companies moving eastward and taking up an outpost line covering Bettignies and Elesmes, which position was held during the night. During the afternoon two German guns had opened a sporadic fire, and one shell fell into a farm used as Battalion Headquarters. Fortunately only one man was wounded. The night was quiet, and the expected Armistice was much discussed.

In the early morning of the 10th November the 20th Division relieved the 24th. As the Battalion was withdrawing by the Maubeuge-Mons road after the relief a shell fell in the middle of the road and wounded eight men of the Battalion, its last casualties in the War. The Battalion marched through Maubeuge to Feignies, where it was billeted for the night.

On November 11th the march was continued to Le Pissotiau, a mile west of Bavai, the Battalion moving off at 5.30 a.m. On the way news was received that the enemy had accepted the terms of the Armistice offered them, which amounted to a clear confession of defeat on their part. The German position had indeed become hopeless, and the German Army, at any rate, was well aware

of the fact, though the civil population of Germany were still being told that they were victorious.

On reaching Le Pissotiau the Battalion went into billets. In the afternoon Lieut.-Colonel Cameron resumed the command and made a short address to the Battalion, thanking all ranks for their splendid work, which had been continued to the very end of the War.

The casualties during the last eleven days of the War were 9 other ranks killed or died of wounds and Captain E. L. Whiteman and 21 other ranks wounded.

On November 12th the Battalion moved a short distance to St. Waast, where it stayed for six days, receiving on the 15th the news of the following awards:—

Victoria Cross : Pte. J. MacNamara, for great gallantry before Lens on the 3rd September, 1918.

Bar to Distinguished Service Order : (For the action at Haussy on October 16, 1918) Lieut.-Colonel E. A. Cameron.

Military Cross : (For the action at Haussy on October 16th, 1918) Captains P. S. Maingot and W. M. Taylor; Lieut. and Quartermaster E. F. James; 2nd Lieut. H. V. Kerckhove (4th Battn. attd.); Sergt.-Major G. Hyde.

Later on the awards of the following decorations to N.C.O.'s and men of the Battalion, for conspicuous services in the final phases of the War, were made known:—

Meritorious Service Medal : Regtl. Sergt.-Major T. Rogers; Sergts. D. Blackery and F. Haysom; Lce.-Cpl. J. Carrodus.

Bar to Military Medal : Sergt. J. House.

Military Medal : Sergt. H. N. Clarke; Lce.-Cpl. W. E. Rugg; Ptes. E. A. Fitzjohn and A. E. Hammond.

Médaille Militaire : Sergt. H. N. Clarke.

CHAPTER XXI

AUGUST TO NOVEMBER, 1918 : THE 12TH BATTALION IN THE LINE AT LA CLYTTE AND IN ACTION NEAR VIERSTRAAT ; IN THE FINAL ADVANCE IN FLANDERS, IN THE BATTLES OF YPRES, 1918, AND COURTRAI ; AFTER CROSSING THE RIVER SCHELDT THE BATTALION RECEIVES THE NEWS OF THE ARMISTICE.

THOUGH the "Advance to Victory, 1918," commenced, so far as the British Armies were concerned, with the Battle of Amiens (8th-12th August), followed later in the same month by the Second Battle of Bapaume and the Battle of the Scarpe, 1918, it was not till the end of September that the Combined Advance of the Belgian, French and British Forces in Flanders commenced, almost simultaneously with the opening of the Battles of the Canal du Nord and the St. Quentin Canal.

On the 1st August the 12th Battalion East Surrey Regt., which was in support in the La Clytte sector, was relieved by the 11th Battn. "Queen's" and went into Divisional Reserve at Wippenhoek. On the night of the 3rd the Battalion relieved the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles in the line at La Clytte. On August 4th the enemy's artillery was very active, all the positions occupied by the Battalion being heavily shelled. A reconnoitring party, consisting of Lieut. H. G. Graves, 2nd Lieut. E. S. Lawton and three men, were all wounded. The situation was quieter on the three following days, and on August 7th the Battalion was relieved in the line by the 18th Battn. K.R.R.C. and went into support, the enemy's artillery being again very active this night. On the 8th, C Company and one platoon of D were attached to the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. for a night operation to straighten out a salient. All objectives were taken and the platoon of D Company dug two strong points on either side of "The Milky Way."

On August 9th the front line was taken over by the 18th Battn. K.R.R.C., reinforced by one company 12th Battn. East Surrey. The artillery on both sides was extremely active. Early on the 10th the Germans counter-attacked and re-took three posts captured on the previous night, but later the posts were again taken by the K.R.R.C.

On the night of August 11th the Battalion relieved the K.R.R.C. in the front line. During the relief the K.R.R.C. were again attacked by the enemy and two posts were lost. In the evening of August 12th the Battalion dug a post in front of Clydesdale Camp to straighten the existing line, and during the night of August 13th new posts were dug by the East Surrey companies in the front line, to fill up the gaps which existed when it was taken over.

On August 14th and 15th patrols were actively employed by the Battalion, which brought in useful information. 2nd Lieut. G. H. Frischling was killed on the 14th. On August 16th, under cover of a heavy bombardment, the front

216 COMMENCEMENT OF GERMAN RETREAT IN FLANDERS

system of posts held by the Battalion was attacked by a German raiding party, which was driven off by machine-gun fire and bombs. Later in the night the Battalion was relieved by the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. and moved back to reserve at Reninghelst. On the 17th the men rested after a strenuous week. Lieut.-Colonel Brown returned from leave and resumed the command. From August 18th to 21st the Battalion furnished working parties, moving on the latter date to Divisional Reserve at Wippenhoek, where a few quiet days were spent.

On August 26th the Battalion left Wippenhoek and moved to the area in the sector of the Westoutre-Goed Moet Mill line vacated by the 10th Battn. "Queen's." Here working parties were found, and on the night of the 28th August the Battalion was relieved by the 2/4th Battn. "Queen's," of the 34th Division, entraining on the 29th at Abeele, and detraining at Lumbres, whence it moved to billets at Esquerdes, south-west of St. Omer. In this area the 41st Division was in G.H.Q. Reserve, and ended the month quietly.

No casualties had been sustained by the 12th Battn. East Surrey during the latter part of the month. The casualties during the earlier part were:—

Killed : 2nd Lieut. G. H. Frischling and 16 other ranks.

Wounded : Lieuts. H. G. Graves and A. V. Reiner; 2nd Lieut. K. L. S. Lawton and 64 other ranks.

Missing : 3 other ranks.

The rewards subsequently granted for gallantry in action during August, 1918, were as follows:—

Distinguished Conduct Medal and Médaille Militaire : Sergt. F. T. James.

Military Medal : Sergts. C. W. Turner and W. Hall; Cpls. F. G. Church and G. Hurran; Ptes. A. Brand, D. Coutts and A. Pocock.

The strength on August 31st was 39 officers and 884 other ranks.

The period of rest of the 41st Division was cut short by an order to commence moving on September 1st, and to relieve the 17th American Division on the Dickebusch front. Accordingly, the 12th Battn. East Surrey and 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. entrained at Lumbres at midday, arriving at Abeele in the evening.

At this moment the situation on the Flanders front was undergoing an important change. The development of the British and French offensives further south had compelled the Germans to commence on the night of the 29th/30th August an extensive retirement between Ypres and Béthune, and early on the 30th British patrols found that Bailleul had been evacuated. The Allied troops in following up the retirement were encountering a determined resistance by the German rear-guards.

During the night of the 1st/2nd September the 122nd Brigade relieved an American regiment in the Vierstraat sector, north-east of Mt. Kemmel, the 12th Battn. East Surrey having orders to take the place of the American battalion on the left, the Hampshire Regt. relieving that on the right.

The 17th American Division had been heavily engaged all day, and, although the general line of the battalions to be relieved had been indicated, no guides had been provided for the 12th Battn. East Surrey, and the exact position of the front-line posts could not be ascertained. Lieut.-Colonel Brown therefore ordered his companies to carry out an area relief and to establish a line from Purgatory to Red Château, placing A and C Companies in front, on a two-platoon frontage, with B and D in reserve in the Vierstraat switch line. A and C Companies moved at 10.30 along the Vierstraat-Wytschaete road, as the most direct route to the line they were to take up, but before reaching their intended positions encountered strong bodies of the enemy holding Chinese Trench on both sides of the road and sustained casualties from machine-gun fire. The senior company commander reported the position to Lieut.-Colonel Brown, who decided that without further careful reconnaissance it was impossible to carry out the relief as intended, particularly as the American position was still unknown. He therefore ordered A, C and D Companies to hold the Vierstraat Switch and relieve any American troops remaining there; while B Company was to advance down the Wytschaete road as near as possible to Chinese Trench and dig in astride the road, so as to cover the sector for which the Battalion was responsible. This work was completed just as dawn was breaking on September 3rd. At 3 p.m. a conference of battalion commanders was held by Brigadier-General Weston, who had succeeded Brigadier-General Towsey in command of the 122nd Brigade on the 11th June, 1918. Brigadier-General Weston explained that an attack was to be carried out by the Brigade on the following morning with the object of making good the light railway line west of Bois Quarante. The attack was to be made by the 12th Battn. East Surrey and the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt., two companies of each battalion advancing first to the railway and consolidating it, after which the remaining companies were to pass through them and seize, under cover of a barrage, the road along the western edge of Bois Quarante.

Lieut.-Colonel Brown issued orders at 6 p.m. that A and B Companies, each covered by two fighting patrols, were to advance at 7 p.m., clear up all enemy posts encountered and seize and consolidate the light railway. This advance was begun at the hour named, and by midnight the companies had made good progress. This being reported by their commanders, they were ordered to complete their task at all costs by 3 a.m. on September 4th, and to send guides back to conduct C and D Companies to the railway. This programme was carried out, and C and D Companies were in position by 4 a.m. A and B Companies in their dogged advance had met with considerable resistance, and their losses had been heavy.

The barrage for the second advance opened at 5.30 a.m., and by 6.15 a.m. C and D Companies had reached the road along the western edge of Bois Quarante and had begun to consolidate. Their casualties so far had been very slight, but as soon as the covering barrage halted they were subjected to extremely heavy machine-gun fire from their right rear and from two large "Pill-boxes" in Grand Bois. The officers of the two companies exposed themselves

freely while keeping the work of consolidation in progress under such hard conditions, and all except 2nd Lieut. T. E. S. Reynolds became casualties. It having become apparent that the right flank of the Battalion was in the air, A and B Companies, under Captain Rogers, moved up from the railway and endeavoured to form a defensive flank and fill up the gap between the Hampshire and C and D Companies.

About 7.15 a.m. the enemy made a strong counter-attack with fresh troops and drove back A and B Companies, which were much weakened by their losses. The remains of D Company fell back to the railway line; but C Company, under 2nd Lieut. Reynolds, held on to a line somewhat in advance. This situation remained unchanged till 1 p.m., when A and B Companies, who had suffered heavily from shell fire, were compelled to fall back to the Vierstraat Switch line. D Company then also withdrew to a line of trenches astride the Vierstraat-Wytschaete road, C Company still maintaining its forward position.

The positions last named were maintained by the Battalion until it was relieved during the night of the 4th/5th September by the 18th Battn. K.R.R.C. The remains of the Battalion were then collected and formed into one company which was posted in Brigade Support in the Vierstraat Switch.

In Brigadier-General Weston's report on these operations, the courage and determination shown by the 12th Battn. East Surrey and the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. were warmly praised. The casualties among their officers amounted to 85 per cent, and to between 60 and 70 per cent among the men engaged. The fine courage and determination shown by 2nd Lieut. T. E. S. Reynolds in maintaining his advance position received special mention.

The casualties in the Battalion during the 3rd and 4th September were:—

<i>Killed :</i>	Officers	3	Other ranks	42
<i>Wounded or gassed :</i>	„	11	„	180
<i>Missing :</i>	„	—	„	7

The officers killed were Captains A. A. Wright and F. R. Barry (5th Battn. attd.) and Lieut. R. M. Meadows. Those wounded were Captain F. B. B. Dowling; Lieuts. T. B. McWalter and P. R. Johnston; 2nd Lieuts. F. E. Lewis, O. A. George and W. E. Bundy. Lieut.-Colonel Brown, Major C. T. Williams, Captains D. Walker and G. W. Christie (R.A.M.C.) and Lieut. A. E. Bell were among the considerable number gassed and taken to hospital. The whole area of operations was heavily gassed, and a large number of casualties resulted in the 122nd Brigade.

The honours awarded to the Battalion for the Bois Quarante action were as follows:—

Military Cross: Lieut. T. B. McWalter; 2nd Lieuts. C. H. Fisher, T. E. S. Reynolds and G. L. White.

Bar to Military Medal: Pte. G. L. Huxley.

Military Medal: Sergt. D. E. Staines; Lce.-Cpls. B. C. Butling, A. E. Collins, W. Creasy, W. Felstead, N. J. Ketley, J. Rogers, G. Smith and G. E. Stenton; Ptes. S. Court, F. Cousins, G. Donaldson, J. E. Savage and Z. Spriggs.

On September 5th the Battalion was relieved by the 23rd Battn. Middlesex Regt. and marched back to billets round Hoograaf Farm, near Reninghelst, where the next day was occupied in bathing and cleaning up. On the 7th September, notwithstanding the previous week's heavy casualties, the strength of the Battalion was 27 officers and 679 other ranks. Training by companies was carried on till September 13th, and at 5 p.m. on the 14th the Battalion marched to Ellarsyde Sidings. There it entrained and proceeded again to the Vierstraat sector, where it relieved the 23rd Battn. Middlesex Regt. in the front line. The enemy's artillery was very active during this relief, causing some casualties. On the 18th the Battalion moved in the early hours into right support, having been relieved by the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. The enemy's artillery was again active, and on the 19th one man was killed and 2nd Lieut. C. K. Adams and one man were wounded. The 20th was a disturbed day also; but the 21st was quiet, and in the evening the Battalion was relieved by the 8th Battn. Royal Scots (34th Division) and marched to Ouderdom, where it entrained for Abeele, and carried out training till the 26th September. Lieut.-Colonel Brown, who had been gassed on the 4th September, rejoined from hospital on the 24th. On the 27th September the Battalion marched to Hoograaf, near Reninghelst, on its way to take part in the advance of the combined force commanded by H.M. The King of the Belgians, which consisted of the Belgian Army, part of the Second (British) Army and some French divisions.

At 5.30 a.m. on the 28th September the XIX and II Corps of the Second Army attacked on a front of four and a half miles south of the Ypres-Zonnebeke road, the 41st Division supporting in the later stages of the fight. The result of this attack, and of that delivered by the Belgian Army further north, was that the enemy was in one day driven from the high ground east of Ypres, the British divisions reaching the line Kortewilde-Becelaere.

During the first day of this battle the 12th Battn. East Surrey was marching eastward from Reninghelst, and the night of the 28th/29th September was passed by it in Ravine Wood, near Hollebeke. On the 29th September the Battalion moved forward across the Ypres-Comines canal to the concentration area south-east of Kortewilde, where it arrived at 4 p.m., having 4 men killed and 2nd Lieut. G. S. Savill and 10 men wounded during the advance. On the 30th, A Company was employed to make good a line towards Tenbrielen and established touch with the 35th Division on the left. Later in the day the Battalion moved nearer to Tenbrielen.

The casualties during the month were:—

<i>Killed or died of wounds:</i>	Officers	3	Other ranks	62
<i>Wounded or gassed:</i>	"	14	"	199
<i>Missing:</i>	"	—	"	7

The wounded officers included 2nd Lieut. P. V. James, on the 30th.

The strength of the Battalion at the end of the month was 37 officers and 856 other ranks.

On 1st October the Battalion moved as advanced guard of the Division towards Gheluwe (two miles north-west of Menin) and was checked 1000 yards

short of that village by a strong line of machine-gun positions. Attempts to advance only partially succeeded, and the Battalion suffered casualties. Lieut. A. C. Edgar and 2nd Lieuts. P. W. Targett, A. E. Bell, A. T. Topham and L. W. Paviour were among those wounded.

At 7 a.m. on October 2nd the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. and the 18th Battn. K.R.R.C. passed through the Battalion lines and attacked the position, and at 10 a.m. Captain J. A. Rogers was ordered to mop up part of Gheluwe with his company. At 6.30 p.m. a counter-attack by the enemy on the right flank of the Brigade front was repulsed.

During the early morning of October 3rd the Battalion was relieved by the 1/1st Battn. Hereford Regt. and the 1/7th Battn. Cheshire Regt. of the 34th Division, and moved back to the neighbourhood of Zandvoorde. Here the Battalion was in support of the 124th Brigade and was not called upon to move until 5 p.m. on October 4th, when as Reserve Battalion to the same Brigade it moved east again to near Terhand. The move was completed by 9 p.m., and the Battalion area was heavily shelled during the night. No move took place on October 5th, but during the day the Battalion rejoined the 122nd Brigade.

The following honours were later on awarded for gallantry in the Battle of Ypres, 1918:—

Military Cross: Captain G. W. Christie (R.A.M.C.); Lieut. A. C. Edgar and 2nd Lieut. G. C. W. Sleath.

Military Medal: Sergt. S. Lattimore; Lce.-Sergt. H. Mills; Cpl. J. Drinkwater; Lce.-Cpl. R. Sadler; Ptes. D. J. Challis, T. Clark, W. Haxton, A. Head, M. D. O'Malley and S. Waddingham.

At 1 a.m. on the 6th the Battalion was ordered to move back to the Abeele area, and at 1 p.m. it paraded and marched to Ypres, whence it was conveyed in motor-buses to Abeele. The 7th October was spent in cleaning up and re-organization, and the next four days were employed in training for the attack. At 11.30 a.m. on the 12th October the Battalion entrained at Wippenhoek, arriving at "Clapham Junction" at 3 p.m. Here it rested for dinner, after which it marched to the front line about one mile north-east of Gheluwe, relieving the 11th Battn. "Queen's" after dark. The relief was complete at 1.30 a.m. on the 13th, which proved to be a quiet day.

On October 14th, the date on which the advance in Flanders was resumed and the combined force commanded by the King of the Belgians attacked on the whole front between Comines on the Lys River and Dixmude, the Battalion took part in an attack by the 41st Division planned on unusual lines and intended to protect the right flank of the general operation above-mentioned. The 41st Division was to make a large advance in bold style, the whole movement of the Second Army being intended to envelop Menin and obtain observation of the valley of the Lys, with a view to the subsequent crossing of that river. The total frontage of the attack by the 41st Division was 2000 yards for the first objective, decreasing to 1750 yards at the second objective and increasing to 3500 yards at the final objective, which entailed an average advance of over three miles. The 122nd Infantry Brigade was detailed to capture the second objective and placed

all its three battalions in line in the following order: 18th Battn. K.R.R.C. on the right, 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. on the left, 12th Battn. East Surrey in the centre. Zero hour was fixed for 5.35 a.m., and three minutes before zero the infantry closed up under the artillery start-line. The battalions, each on a two-company front, were formed up in lines of sections. Owing to the use of smoke and the thick weather prevailing, special compass parties were posted on the flanks of each unit to assist in keeping direction.

At 4.15 a.m. the enemy carried out a heavy counter-preparation artillery shoot which lasted for forty-five minutes, using both artillery and trench mortars along the line of the front posts of the Brigade, but owing to the skilful handling of the sections by the officers and N.C.O.'s casualties were slight. The attack opened according to plan, though, owing to smoke and mist, it was not possible to see more than fifty yards. Nevertheless the first objective was taken by 7.45 a.m. The advance was then continued to the second objective, which was reached by the two leading companies of the 12th Battn. East Surrey at 8.30 a.m., and the Battalion then found itself near the Menin-Roulers road about two miles north of Menin.

The advance was a fine achievement in view of its having been made through an extremely dense fog. The Battalion captured over 250 prisoners, together with a large number of machine guns and trench mortars. The whole Battalion advanced and fought in gallant style, and the leadership of officers and N.C.O.'s under such difficult conditions, equally with the staunchness of their men, earned high approval which was shown in the following list of honours afterwards awarded to the Battalion for this battle:—

2nd Bar to Military Cross: Captain J. A. Rogers.

Bar to Military Cross: Lieut. W. D. Mutch (4th Battn. attd.).

Military Cross: Captain E. St. J. N. Ryan.

Bar to Military Medal: Company Sergt.-Major W. Hall and Lce.-Cpl. W. Haxton.

Military Medal: Sergt. F. T. James; Cpl. J. H. W. Draper; Lce.-Cpls. W. H. James, S. G. Brewster and O. J. George; Ptes. F. H. Fanner, P. Record, T. Rochford, S. J. Sadler and R. Seaman.

Croix de Guerre: Lce.-Cpl. S. G. Brewster.

The casualties of the Battalion were comparatively light, though in the long line of advance numerous concrete "pill-boxes" and many machine-guns were encountered. Two officers (2nd Lieuts. C. M. Fisher and F. Combe-Seaton) and 14 other ranks were killed; 2nd Lieut. R. C. Latham and 61 other ranks were wounded: a total of 78 casualties.

During the 15th October the Battalion remained in position north of Menin, which the enemy was evacuating. On the 16th the Battalion marched north-east via Moorseele to Gulleghem, where it remained for three days in support of the 123rd Brigade, which was in front line opposite Courtrai. Gulleghem was intermittently shelled and bombed by hostile aircraft during the stay of the Battalion. On the 19th October the Battalion crossed the River Lys near Bisseghem and, after passing the night in the south-western outskirts of Courtrai, moved into

that town on the following day. On the 21st the Battalion came into action near Sweveghem, three miles east of Courtrai and advanced about two miles to the Courtrai-Bossuyt canal south of Knokke, among the casualties being 2nd Lieut. G. H. Savage killed, and 2nd Lieut. R. Northwood wounded.

On the 22nd the Battalion was ordered to form up on the eastern bank of the canal in preparation for an attack at 9 a.m. The canal was crossed near Knokke at the cost of some casualties, but the attack was held up by heavy machine-gun fire. Another attack was launched in the afternoon, when an advance of 400 yards was achieved. 2nd Lieut. R. F. Howship subsequently received the Military Cross for his gallantry this day. Captain E. St. J. N. Ryan was killed, and Captain J. A. Rogers and Lieut. T. C. Hill were wounded in this action. About midnight of the 22nd/23rd the Battalion was relieved by the 23rd Battn. Middlesex Regt. and moved back into Divisional Reserve north of Knokke.

Early on the 26th October orders were received to concentrate for an attack on Avelghem, but patrols sent forward found it evacuated by the Germans. 2nd Lieut. W. G. T. Summers, D.C.M., M.M., with three fighting patrols, then entered the village and secured the damaged bridge over the Scheldt, after which posts were established on the right bank. 2nd Lieut. Summers was afterwards awarded the Military Cross for these services. Avelghem was shelled during the day and more heavily at night, Lieut. W. G. Robinson being among the wounded. On the 27th the Battalion was relieved by the 15th Battn. Royal Scots and moved back to a position two miles west of Knokke. 2nd Lieut. W. G. T. Summers was wounded this day. The next three days were devoted to bathing and training, and on the 31st October the Battalion moved into Brigade Support at Vierkeerhoek, one and a half miles east of Knokke.

The total casualties for October (including 2nd Lieut. J. R. A. Cockayne, gassed on the 23rd) were:—

<i>Killed :</i>	Officers	4	Other ranks	54
<i>Wounded or gassed :</i>	„	12	„	275
<i>Missing :</i>	„	—	„	9

The strength of the Battalion at the end of the month was 38 officers and 677 other ranks.

From the 1st to 3rd November the Battalion remained in support near Vierkeerhoek carrying out training. On the 4th it moved back to near Knokke, and on the following day to billets in Harlebeke, on the River Lys north-east of Courtrai. While in Harlebeke the crossing of the river by night was carried out as an exercise, forty men being sent across in boats, the remainder of the Battalion passing over by foot-bridges. This exercise was a rehearsal of the intended forcing of the River Scheldt, which was planned for the 10th November, but became unnecessary owing to the enemy's retirement.

On the 9th November the Battalion marched eastward again and on the following day crossed the River Scheldt near Berchem and reached the Audenarde-Renaix railway at a point four miles north of Renaix. Here it received the news of the Armistice at 10 a.m. on the 11th November.

SECTION IV

NOVEMBER, 1918, TO DECEMBER, 1919

**AFTER THE ARMISTICE. DISBANDMENT OF THE SERVICE BATTALIONS.
OPERATIONS IN NORTH RUSSIA AND MESOPOTAMIA.**

CHAPTER XXII

NOVEMBER, 1918, TO DECEMBER, 1919 : THE 1ST BATTALION AT LE QUESNOY AFTER THE ARMISTICE ; MOVES WITH THE 5TH DIVISION TO THE GEMBOUX AREA IN BELGIUM ; DEMOBILIZATION ; THE BATTALION RETURNS TO ENGLAND AND IS QUARTERED AT BORDON ; EMBARKS AT TILBURY AND TAKES PART IN THE CLOSING OPERATIONS OF THE NORTH RUSSIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE ; RETURNS TO ENGLAND AND IS STATIONED AT RIPON.

THE 1st Battn. East Surrey spent a month at Le Quesnoy, resting and reorganizing after the strenuous days which had preceded the Armistice.

On the 4th December the King visited the 5th Division, and the Battalion was selected to furnish the guard of honour on the occasion. The remainder of the Battalion cheered His Majesty heartily as he passed them at the southern entrance of Le Quesnoy. On December the 12th the 5th Division was ordered to cross the frontier into Belgium and to take up its quarters in the Gembloux area, about twenty-five miles south-east of Brussels. For the next eleven days, accordingly, the 1st Battn. East Surrey was on the march via Bavai, Maubeuge, Binche (where it halted for a day) and Nivelles, until on the 22nd it reached its billets, which were scattered and uncomfortable, in Upigny and Longchamps, some eight miles east of Gembloux.

Here demobilization commenced, and by the end of the month the first twenty-two men—coal-miners, “pivotal” men and time-expired men—had been despatched to England. The Christmas dinners were somewhat scanty owing to the local lack of supplies.

After a fortnight in Upigny and Longchamps the Battalion shifted its quarters a couple of miles northwards to Aisne-en-Refail and Mehaigne, both of which villages afforded a great improvement in the matter of billets. Here the Divisional Commander visited the Battalion on the 14th and 25th. On the latter date, after his inspection, he presented medal ribbons to those officers and men who had recently been awarded decorations, and in his address to the Battalion said that it might well be proud of the part that it had played in the War.

During the month demobilization proceeded rapidly, about 200 of all ranks being sent home, which left the strength of the Battalion on the 31st at 30 officers and 592 other ranks. On the 30th the Battalion won the Brigade cross-country run.

The awards of honours notified to the Battalion during December and January were as follows:—

Military Cross : Captains G. W. Kennedy and T. H. Yalden and 2nd Lieut. A. W. Marshall (6th Battn. attd.).

Meritorious Service Medal : Regtl. Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. E. Walker.

Military Medal : Sergts. C. Allen, W. Ashenden, G. Briggs, S. G. Clatworthy, W. G. Hounscome and G. E. Loft; Lce.-Sergt. G. Hicks; Cpls. G. H. Green and R. Evans; Lce.-Cpls. A. G. Bowler, C. E. Cham and F. G. Field; Ptes. H. Baker, A. E. Bent, S. Bird, E. D. Cooper, G. W. Cooper, R. Hunt, R. Kelly, A. Lacey, A. Manning, E. A. Nipress, J. Parke and J. Robins.

February 10th, Sobraon Day, was commemorated by inter-company football matches, a concert for the men and a Sergeants' Dance, to which a large number of the local inhabitants were invited. The final of the Divisional Cross-country Run was also decided on the same day, the 1st Battn. Bedford Regt. beating the 1st Battn. East Surrey, although the latter secured the first three places. As the weather was very cold and deep snow lay on the ground, the race was run under somewhat unfavourable conditions.

Throughout the month demobilization was continued, and 4 officers and 244 other ranks left the Battalion, which on the 22nd February was reduced to two companies, A at Aishe-en-Refail and B at Mehaigne. This took place on the day after a draft of 54 other ranks, under 2nd Lieut. A. W. Marshall, had been despatched to the 2/23rd London Regiment.

Further awards of honours as follows were made known during the month:—

Military Medal : Sergts. F. Churcher and A. Rice; Ptes. E. Bray, F. Chamberlain, H. Dockerill, H. Hardman, P. A. Montague, F. Pearson and W. A. Stevens.

The 1st Battn. East Surrey left Aishe-en-Refail on the 16th March and, after halting that night at Mazy, reached Fleurus on the 17th. At the end of the month the strength of the Battalion was 20 officers and 204 other ranks.

After a month's stay at Fleurus the Battalion at last returned to England, proceeding via Ostend and Dover to Bordon, near Aldershot. Here it was re-organized, after the loss by demobilization of its time-expired and temporary personnel. At intervals during the spring and summer its ranks were replenished by drafts from the Regimental Dépôt, while officers rejoined from the Staff and other extra-regimental employment. On the 21st of June, Lieut.-Colonel C. C. G. Ashton, who had been transferred from the 2nd Battalion, took over command from Major M. J. Minogue, who became Second-in-Command.

The 1st Battn. East Surrey was now due for garrison duty abroad, but until the spheres of British influence had been decided at the Versailles Peace Conference the future movements of British troops could not be settled definitely. It was rumoured at first that the Battalion would go to India; later a statement, almost definite, was made that it would proceed to Mesopotamia, north of Baghdad. It was therefore something of a surprise when orders were received late on the 14th August that the 1st Battn. East Surrey would embark within two days for active service in North Russia.

After travelling all night by rail, the Battalion embarked, during the early hours of the 16th, at Tilbury, in H.T. *Kildonan Castle*, the strength being 34 officers and 718 other ranks. The names of the officers who embarked were as follows:—

Lieut.-Colonel C. C. G. Ashton, O.B.E.

Major M. J. Minogue, D.S.O., M.C.

Captain (Brevet Major) A. P. B. Irwin, D.S.O.

Captains R. C. Campbell, F. A. Bowring, E. H. J. Nicolls, D.S.O., M.C., R. E. C. Adams, M.C., J. W. L. Ellis (3rd Battn. attd.) and W. G. Price (6th Battn. attd.).

Lieuts. F. Thompson, E. J. Cooper, G. W. Kennedy, M.C., H. Lonergan, D. J. Allfree, A. L. Sutton, M.C., T. H. Yalden, M.C., R. B. Marshall, R. G. H. Pottle, J. P. Brown, M.C., C. F. Wilks, M.C., G. V. Cranaham and R. H. N. Saunders.

2nd Lieuts. J. R. A. Cockayne, W. T. J. Rumsey, F. J. Lazell, E. F. Holloway, R. A. Chidson, H. Aldridge, W. V. Crook and V. W. Richards.

Lieut. A. E. Cottam, M.C. (Adjutant).

Captain G. W. H. Rowe (Quartermaster).

Captain H. Walker, R.A.M.C. (attd.).

The Rev. A. R. Fowler, C.F. (attd.).

During the afternoon of the 16th the vessel dropped down to Gravesend, where she remained in midstream, loading ammunition from lighters, until the evening of the 19th, when the voyage commenced. No special incident occurred during the passage across the North Sea and round the North Cape. The sixth and last day of the voyage was passed in steaming up the Bay of Kola, and at 6 p.m. on the 25th August the *Kildonan Castle* made fast to the wooden jetty at Murmansk, a port on the shores of the Arctic Ocean, midway between the North Cape and the entrance to the White Sea.

It is advisable at this point to trace briefly the events which led up to the then existing situation in North Russia. The Allied campaign in that country was originally undertaken in order to forestall a German occupation of the Archangel and Murman coasts, a menace made possible by the military collapse of Russia, which would have constituted a further grave danger to Allied shipping.

The railway which now connects Murmansk with Petrograd (see map opposite page 228) was commenced during the Great War for strategical reasons, and was completed before the beginning of the Russian revolution. This railway, some 800 miles in length, after leaving Petrograd skirts the southern shores of Lake Ladoga and thence crosses to Petrozavodsk, on the western edge of Lake Onega, about 250 miles from Petrograd. Thence it runs nearly due north to Soroki and, after skirting the White Sea for about 200 miles to Kandalaksha, crosses the neck of the Kola Peninsula, the eastern extremity of Lapland, to Murmansk.

The first operation of the Allies in North Russia was the seizure of the Murmansk railway at the end of June, 1918, and the disarmament of the Bolsheviks as far south as Soroki. In September and October the safety of this portion of the railway was secured by successful operations in that part of Karelia which is between the White Sea and the Finnish frontier. Meanwhile, Archangel, on the eastern shore of the White Sea, had been captured early in August, and from that port and others on the White Sea initial advances had been made

inland, including that southward along the railway from Archangel to Vologda. In all these operations the Allies were assisted by a considerable force of Tsarist Russians, to some units of which British officers were appointed.

During 1918 additional troops were sent out to strengthen the Allied forces in North Russia, and in the winter of 1918-1919 further operations resulted in the capture of Segeja, on the Murman railway, half-way between the White Sea and Lake Onega. Meanwhile other operations of a defensive nature had been in progress on the Archangel front, some 200 miles to the eastward. In April, 1919, the advance southward from Segeja was resumed, and early in July, Kyapeselga, close to the northern shore of Lake Onega, was captured and flotilla actions were fought on the lake.

Ever since the Armistice, however, the campaign in North Russia had been growing more and more unpopular in England. The contingents of most of the other Allies had been withdrawn, and there had recently occurred several mutinies of the units composed of Tsarist Russians, in which British officers had been killed or betrayed to the Bolsheviks, the most notable instance being south of Archangel on the River Onega, where, amongst others, Captain G. R. P. Roupell, V.C., of the East Surrey Regiment, had fallen into the hands of the Bolsheviks. Captain Roupell was sent as a prisoner to Moscow, and was eventually repatriated under an exchange agreement in 1920.

For the reasons given in the preceding paragraph it was decided to discontinue the campaign and to withdraw all the Allied forces from the country. To assist in this operation, an Expeditionary Force was despatched from England under the command of General Lord Rawlinson, consisting of four battalions and attached troops, one of the battalions being the 1st East Surrey.

To return to the story of the Battalion, which we left ready to disembark at Murmansk in the evening of the 20th August. The weather was overcast and clouds obscured the mountain-tops on either side of the narrow inlet on which the town of log houses is built. At 8 p.m. the disembarkation commenced. Two trains were waiting on the quay, in one of which A Company, commanded by Captain E. H. J. Nicolls, was ordered to travel, the remainder of the Battalion entraining in the other.

The journey which followed lasted for three days and covered a distance of about 500 miles. The route ran through a country of mountains, lakes and forests, the latter stretching as far as the eye could see in every direction, and showing no signs of habitation except occasional villages of log houses alongside the railway. Halts were made at intervals to take in cut logs and water for the engine and to make tea for the men.

On the 26th of August a halt was made at Kandalaksha, on the White Sea. Here D Company, under Major A. P. B. Irwin, detrained and relieved a company of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, which then joined the Battalion on the train. Similarly during the evening of the following day a halt was made at Kem, also on the White Sea, and the Headquarters of Major-General C. C. Maynard. Here B Company, commanded by Captain R. C. Campbell, was dropped for duty on the Lines of Communication. Tea was prepared and issued, and the



THE 1ST BATTALION IN NORTH-WEST RUSSIA.

band played on the siding, as it had done at several previous halts, to the great admiration of the inhabitants.

At 10 a.m. on the 28th of August, Medvyejya Gora was reached, at the northern extremity of Lake Onega. This village was the headquarters of Brigadier-General G. D. Price, commanding the 237th Brigade, under whose orders the Battalion now came.

Battalion Headquarters and C Company, commanded by Captain F. A. Bowring, reached Kyapeselga (see map opposite page 236), some twenty miles south of Medvyejya Gora, at 6 p.m. the same day, and accommodation was provided for them in corrugated iron huts alongside the line. After passing the night in the train at Kyapeselga station, A Company went on a mile further to the village, where it detrained early on August the 29th. It was then conveyed in a motor-trolley train to the outpost line, where it relieved a company of the 6th Battn. R.M.L.I.

The outpost line was about three miles south of Kyapeselga village. The surrounding country, known as the Shunga Peninsula, was similar to that traversed during the railway journey, but being in close proximity to Lake Onega and the numerous small lakes that fringe it, it was considerably flatter, with occasional small clearings in the forest. The distribution of A Company was one platoon on the railway and one on the earth road which ran, roughly speaking, parallel to it; the supporting platoon was at the level-crossing 1000 yards in rear; and the fourth platoon held the inner defences round Kyapeselga, where C Company remained in reserve, and was trained in advance formations suitable for the nature of the country. These formations very nearly resembled those adopted in the West African bush.

On August 30th, Lieut.-Colonel Ashton took over command of the sector known as No. 2, and on the following day a patrol sent forward along the railway reached a point five miles in advance of the outpost line without seeing any sign of the enemy.

The work of the outpost company during the first two weeks of September consisted in moving gradually forward so as to protect the parties who were repairing the broken track and bridges in preparation for the coming advance, the plan of which was known roughly as soon as the Battalion arrived at Kyapeselga, and in detail shortly afterwards. The intention was to drive the enemy from his main defences, and thereafter to penetrate deeply along the railway, taking as many prisoners as possible. Having thus inflicted a considerable blow, both materially and morally, upon the Bolsheviks, the position gained was to be handed over to the Tsarist Russians and the British troops withdrawn to their ships.

On the 2nd of September, 2nd Lieut. T. H. Yalden arrived with the Battalion's transport, which had followed in another ship from England. On the day following two deserters gave themselves up, stating that they had covered the distance of six miles from the enemy's lines. On the 5th, C Company relieved A in the outpost line, and two days later Battalion Headquarters moved from Kyapeselga into huts two miles south of that village.

On the 10th September one platoon of A Company advanced from Kyapeselga and took up a position 800 yards beyond Siding 7A, which is five miles south of the village, in order to protect the Bridge-building Section. Next day the remainder of A Company followed and took up a more advanced position, rather over two miles south of Siding 7A, with the dual purpose of protecting the bridge-building parties and of getting close enough to the enemy to reconnoitre the approaches to his trenches, in what was known as the Chorga Line.

Battalion Headquarters and C Company (less two platoons) advanced to Siding 7A on the 13th. On that date Lieut. R. B. Marshall was mortally wounded while on patrol. He was in the forest 500 yards in advance of the outposts, accompanied by his servant, Pte. G. Street, when a party of the enemy about forty strong was encountered. Lieut. Marshall was shot through the chest, and being unable to move, told Pte. Street to make his way back to the British out-post line. This, however, the gallant young soldier refused to do, and opened fire on the enemy with such effect that he checked their further advance and after some time was able to carry Lieut. Marshall back to the British lines. Unfortunately, Lieut. Marshall, who had already been twice wounded while serving with the Regiment in France, died next day. For his cool and resolute conduct in bringing in his wounded officer, Pte. G. Street was soon afterwards awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

The General Offensive, which was to precede the withdrawal operations on the Murmansk Line, was timed to commence on the 14th September. The troops taking part in it were disposed in columns, each column at first acting independently, but all eventually converging on the railway about Lijma, a village about twenty miles south of Kyapeselga. Lijma is situated on the western shore of a long arm of Lake Onega which extends northwards to a point on the road near Siding 7.

The composition of the columns was as follows:—

- (i) *Right Column*: A Russian force which remained stationary.
- (ii) *Centre Column*: Commanded by Major A. G. Church, R.A., consisted of:—

A detachment of the Russian Olonetz Regiment, two platoons of Serbs, one 65 mm. gun and B Company 1st Battn. East Surrey, which had been brought up by rail from Kem on the 11th.

- (iii) *Left Column*: Commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Ashton, was divided into:—

The Railway Column, under Major M. J. Minogue, comprising Battalion Headquarters, A Company and half C Company 1st Battn. East Surrey, half section 19th Battn. Machine Gun Corps, Armoured Train, and two 4.5-in. Howitzers and five field guns of various calibres.

The Road Column, under Captain F. A. Bowring, comprising one company of the 2nd North Russian Rifle Regiment, half section 19th

Battn. Machine Gun Corps, one section 55th Company R.E., and two Howitzers and three field guns, escorted by two platoons of C Company 1st Battn. East Surrey.

- (iv) *The Shunga Column* : on the extreme left was a mixed force of British and Russian sailors.

The plan of operations for columns (ii), (iii) and (iv) was as follows:—

The Centre Column was to move to Tivdiya, a village eleven miles south-west of Kyapeselga, and thence to advance south-east through Kavgora on Lijma.

The Left Column was to move its two portions forward in close co-operation one along the railway and the other along the road, which as far as Lijma and some six miles beyond it were roughly parallel, separated only by a narrow strip of forest.

The Shunga Column was to cross in boats the arm of Lake Onega already mentioned and, landing near Lijma, to cut the railway in rear of the enemy.

The enemy's main position known as the Chorga Line, was on the railway, about six miles north of Lijma station, with an outpost line about 1000 yards in advance of it. His support position was about three miles further south, also on the railway.

The Centre Column was the first to move, as it left Kyapeselga during the morning of the 11th September and marched four miles westward to Lake Lijmozero, where it embarked in small boats and crossed to Lijmozero Island, close to the western shore of the lake. Having spent the night on the island, the column re-embarked in its boats next morning and completed its voyage across the lake. It then marched viâ Tivdiya to Rigaselga, seven miles west of the enemy's main position.

At 5 a.m. on the 13th September the Centre Column left Rigaselga and found the enemy holding Kavgora, a village eight miles north-west of Lijma station. The first attack on Kavgora was checked by heavy machine-gun fire and rifle fire; but a second attack in the afternoon was successful, and the enemy's position, which was found to be well constructed and wired, was captured about 8 p.m.

At 4 a.m. on the 14th, B Company, with the field gun, was sent forward to Lijma, the remainder of the Centre Column being left to garrison Kavgora. Very soon, however, the track was found to be impracticable for wheels, and the gun was sent back to Kavgora with an escort of two sections. At nine o'clock a train full of Bolshevik troops was sighted in Lijma station. An attempt to capture it was unsuccessful, as it got clear away before the railway line was reached, about a mile south of the station. One platoon was then sent on to Lijma village, which it captured together with forty prisoners.

Meanwhile, at 6 a.m. on the 14th September, the Railway Column of Lieut.-Colonel Ashton's force had commenced to advance from Siding 7A, where it had concentrated late in the previous evening. At first, A Company, acting as the advanced guard, encountered a very slight opposition until just before nine o'clock it reached the ground vacated by the enemy's outposts, where

its further advance was checked by heavy rifle and machine-gun fire. It soon became evident that the enemy intended to make a stand in his main position, and measures were then taken by the Railway Column to drive him out. A strong firing-line was built up, and the guns in the armoured train opened fire. When the enemy's fire slackened under the bombardment, orders were given to resume the advance. Supported by machine-gun fire from the east of the railway, the 1st Battn. East Surrey moved forward on the west side of it, and it was not long before the enemy abandoned his trenches. Thus, at a cost of only four men wounded, the strongly wired and entrenched Chorga Line was taken, many dead and wounded Bolsheviks being found in and around the trenches.

The advance was resumed after a short pause, during which touch was established with the Road Column by means of a patrol, and Lijma station was entered at 4.30 p.m. without further opposition. After a further advance south of the station, the Railway Column reached at 8 p.m. its final objective for the day, viz. the track from Lijma village to the railway, and thence established touch with the Centre and Road Columns. Its advanced guard, moving forward to take up an outpost line south of the track, found that a railway bridge spanning a small river was on fire. With the help of a ladder, however, the advanced guard managed to cross the bridge, and the flames were eventually extinguished.

The Road Column meanwhile had made its way south to Lijma village, where it found B Company already in possession, the remainder of that Company having joined the platoon which first occupied it, as related above.

Prior to the resumption of the advance on the 15th September several changes had taken place in the composition of the different columns. B Company had been transferred from the Centre Column to the Road Column, where it formed the reserve, and the two platoons of C Company had also been transferred to the Road Column from the Railway Column. D Company, however, which had been travelling since the 12th September from Kandalaksha, had now joined the Railway Column, which therefore still had Battalion Headquarters and two companies of the 1st Battn. East Surrey, while B and C Companies were with the Road Column.

With D Company as advanced guard, the Railway Column moved off at 7 a.m. on the 15th September. They found many signs of the enemy's recent presence, but only one railway official at Siding 6, and at 9.30 a.m. arrived at a point about a mile north of Siding 5, near which the directions of the road and railway change from south-east to south-west, while the road, after passing Ilemseiga, crosses the railway and the Chebina River to reach Myanselga.

From their position north of Siding 5 the Railway Column observed considerable activity both in Ilemseiga and the siding, where a train was being loaded. Some doubt existed, however, as to whether the occupants of the siding were British or Bolsheviks, since a report had been received that the Shunga Column had occupied it on the previous day. Patrols were therefore sent forward to clear up the situation, which, on reaching the outskirts of Ilemseiga and the north end of the siding, came under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire. It was afterwards ascertained that the Shunga Column had landed a party on the

shore of the lake at the nearest point to Siding 5, and that this party had occupied the siding and stopped two trains, taking out of them 300 prisoners, with whom they withdrew to the lake-shore, leaving the siding unoccupied.

On learning from the above-mentioned patrols that Siding 5 was again in the enemy's hands, the Railway Column threw out an outpost line and sent forward two strong patrols to obtain further information. One of these patrols captured a prisoner on the railway line, who stated that 400 Red Finns had just arrived and were reinforcing the enemy in order to hold the position. At 1 p.m. communication was again established with the Road Column and arrangements were made for a simultaneous advance by both columns supported by artillery fire, with a view to turning the position. This attempt was unsuccessful, as it was found that the enemy had strongly reinforced his left flank, and about 4.30 p.m. the advanced troops of both columns were withdrawn a quarter of a mile from the enemy's position, in order that it might be subjected to an artillery bombardment, which commenced at 5 p.m. and lasted for half an hour. Another infantry attack was then delivered, and the village and siding were taken without much difficulty. The pursuit was continued to the Chebina River, where outposts were established for the night. During the day three trains with locomotives, a quantity of gun ammunition, machine guns, rifles, transport and a number of prisoners, had been captured; while the casualties in the British columns had been 3 men killed and 6 wounded.

Early on the 16th September, B Company joined the Railway Column, thus leaving the Road Column with C Company only. In the advance of the Railway Column, which commenced at 10 a.m., B Company formed the advanced guard, D Company was with the main body, and A Company, as the Column Reserve, held Siding 5. Owing to the road having crossed the railway at Siding 5, the Road Column moving on Myanselga was now on the right of the Railway Column, which moved along the south side of the line, with its advanced guard on the north side. Small parties of the enemy were met and driven back without difficulty; but when Siding 4 was reached the enemy was found in some force on the high ground to the south of it.

At this moment heavy firing, including that of artillery, in the direction of Myanselga, indicated that the Road Column was also encountering some opposition. It was decided, therefore, to send a platoon along the road from Siding 4 to Myanselga to attack that village from the rear. This platoon reached the outskirts of Myanselga shortly before six o'clock and completely surprised the enemy, many of whom were killed by Lewis-gun fire, while twenty-five were taken prisoners. The Road Column then entered Myanselga, and at 7 p.m. both columns resumed their advance. Considerable resistance was again encountered from the high ground south of Siding 4, but eventually the enemy was driven from this position and the Nurmis River was reached at 10 p.m. For conspicuous gallantry on this day Pte. H. C. Harris was awarded the Military Medal.

As the Nurmis River marked the appointed limit of the advance along the railway, outposts were established and the position was consolidated in depth. The two columns had covered more than thirty miles in three days, through

country in which the enemy had every advantage, and had collected a total of 120 prisoners, besides killing many of the enemy. The British casualties on the 16th September were only five wounded, including Major A. P. B. Irwin. The small number of casualties throughout the operations were attributed mainly to the bad shooting of the Bolsheviks.

The disposition of the 1st Battn. East Surrey on the 17th September was as follows: C Company held the line of the Nurmis River, while B Company held Myanselga and also the road and railway bridges on the Chebina River. Battalion Headquarters and D Company were at Siding 4, and A Company at Siding 5. On the following day patrols sent out northwards to Zapolki and south to Pavlovitsi, found those villages clear of the enemy and the inhabitants friendly.

The 1st Battn. East Surrey was now the only British unit on the Nurmis Line, all the others having reached or being *en route* for Murmansk, and arrangements were in progress for its relief by the 2nd North Russian Rifle Regiment. Accordingly, on the 21st September the last-named unit relieved A, B and D Companies, which at once proceeded by rail to Medvyejya Gora. Next day Battalion Headquarters and C Company were similarly relieved and moved back into billets about Siding 5, where they remained until the 25th, during which time the bodies of the three men killed during the attack of the 15th were exhumed and sent back for burial in the British cemetery at Kyapeselga. On the 25th September, Battalion Headquarters and C Company entrained for Medvyejya Gora, where they arrived next morning and found A and D Companies, B Company having been sent north by train four days earlier to guard the bridges near Soroki, on the White Sea.

During the forenoon of the 26th a message came through to the Battalion reporting that the Bolsheviks had landed a force on the shore of Lake Onega, near Lijma, which had cut off the Tsarist Russian troops along the railway south of that village. The latter asked that British troops might be sent back to restore the situation, and C Company was ordered to hold itself in readiness to return to Kyapeselga. It was eventually decided, however, that British troops should not be sent south again, and the Battalion left Medvyejya Gora early on the 27th, the last British train carrying a rearguard furnished by D Company. Kem, thirty miles north of Soroki, was reached at 6 a.m. on the 28th September, and there orders were received for the Battalion (less B Company, still at Soroki) to proceed to Kandalaksha, at the northern extremity of the White Sea, where the men remained in their two trains during the 29th and 30th.

On the latter date, C Company was detailed to form part of a punitive expedition which was being despatched to Kovlitsa, a small village on an inlet near Kandalaksha. Some days previously the 2nd Battn. Highland Light Infantry had furnished a party to accompany two Intelligence Officers on a raid upon the village. The party was conveyed in rowing boats, which were fired on as they approached the land, with the result that the rowers of one boat were killed and its occupants captured. One object of the later expedition was to ascertain if there were any survivors and, if so, to bring them back.

At 6 p.m. C Company embarked in two very small tugs, which after steam-

ing for half an hour reached the rendezvous off the mouth of the inlet leading to Kovlitsa. There they made fast for the night, one alongside H.M.S. *Nairana*, a seaplane depôt-ship, and the other alongside H.M.S. M.23, a monitor which was to accompany the expedition.

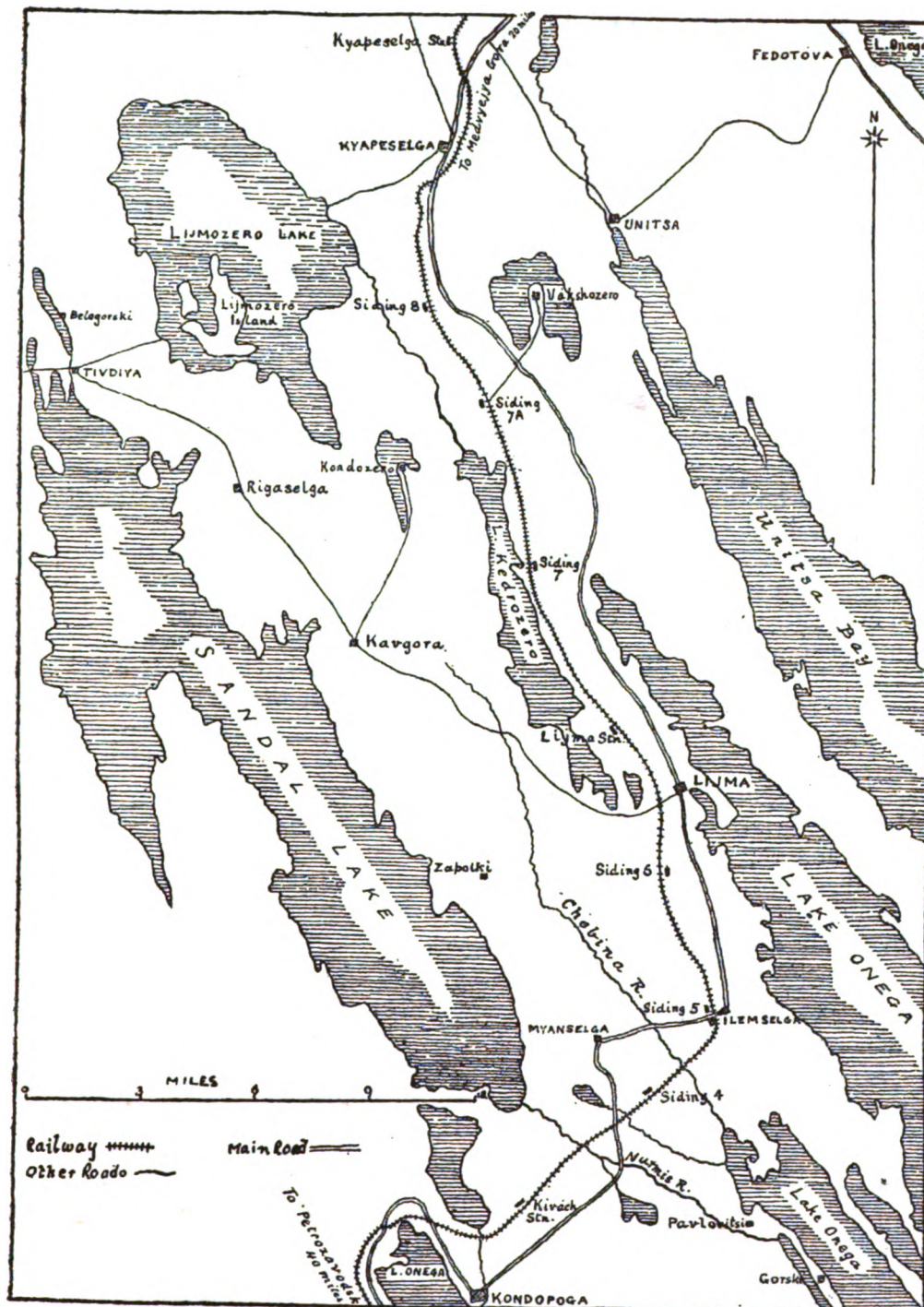
The landing of troops was to be carried out in six small boats, which were in tow of the tugs. It was discovered, however, at daybreak that two of the small boats attached to one of the tugs were missing. The Russian crew of the tug were paraded and cross-examined, but denied all knowledge of the matter, though there was little doubt that some of them had sunk the boats, since, if they had got adrift, there was not enough wind or tide to have carried them out of sight. The missing boats were now replaced by two from other vessels of the expedition, and officers and men of H.M.S. *Nairana*'s company manned the two tugs for the operation.

At 6 a.m. the flotilla started, the monitor leading the way up the inlet, closely followed by the tugs. As soon, however, as the narrow waters were entered it was found that the heavy mist on either shore would prevent the monitor using her guns to cover the landing. The operations were therefore postponed and the flotilla made its way back to the rendezvous, where the troops were transferred to H.M.S. *Nairana* and M.23, which afforded accommodation somewhat less cramped than that on board the tugs. They were re-embarked on the tugs after dark, with orders to carry out the landing next morning.

Early on October 2nd the weather showed improvement and there was no mist in the inlet. The flotilla stopped two miles short of Kovlitsa, and C Company made for the shore in the row-boats and landed under cover of the monitor's guns. There was no opposition during the landing or while the company was working through the forest towards the village, which was reached by 10 a.m. and surrounded by picquets while the Intelligence Officers searched the houses. No men were found, as they had all decamped, and only women and children remained. These refused to give any information, even after some of the houses had been set on fire. At 2 p.m. the picquets were withdrawn. The company returned to the shore and, having re-embarked in the rowing-boats, went aboard the tugs and returned with the rest of the flotilla to Kandalaksha.

Meanwhile, on the 1st October, the 1st Battn. East Surrey had received orders to embark at Kandalaksha in the Hired Transport *Santa Elena*, a vessel which, as it proved, afforded very comfortable quarters and good food. During the afternoon A Company embarked, followed next day by Battalion Headquarters and B and D Companies; while C Company was taken straight alongside in the tugs on its return from Kovlitsa. The total strength of the Battalion on board the *Santa Elena* was then 26 officers and 614 other ranks.

The *Santa Elena* had orders to wait at Kandalaksha until the last troop train from that port had reached Murmansk, so that, should the railway be cut, any troops unable to get through to Murmansk might return to Kandalaksha and be taken on board. It was therefore not till 6 a.m. on the 4th October that the *Santa Elena* sailed. After a very rough voyage, during most of which she towed the monitor, which had run out of oil, she reached Murmansk on the 7th October.



THE 1ST BATTALION IN THE OPERATION NEAR LAKE ONEGA, SEPTEMBER, 1919.

Next morning General Lord Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief of the North Russian Expeditionary Force, came on board and said good-bye to the officers in the saloon. The following extract is taken from his remarks:—

“ I am afraid I shall not have an opportunity of seeing the Battalion, as I am leaving for England this afternoon. I felt that I must come and thank you for the magnificent work you have done out here, especially in the advance along the railway. You have had a rare tossing about on this ship on the way from Kandalaksha, but it is just as well that I decided to send you by sea, as the railway was broken two days ago and it would have been a difficult task to have got you away. . . .

“ I thank you, Colonel Ashton, and the Battalion once again for the fine work you have done out here, and wish you the best of luck in the future.”

On the 9th October, at 8 a.m., the Battalion disembarked from the *Santa Elena* on to the jetty, and at noon re-embarked on H.T. *Menominee*, where it was rejoined by the Quartermaster, who had come through with his stores by rail from Kandalaksha.

The weather, which for some days had varied between bright sunshine and light rain, now turned to snow, and as the *Menominee* steamed down the Bay of Kola in the early morning of October 10th the last view the Battalion had of the country included the snow-capped hills enclosing the bay. So ended a campaign which, if short and of no particular military interest, served at any rate to provide the newly reconstructed Battalion with a valuable experience of active service.

After a voyage which afforded no incident of any interest, the Battalion disembarked at the Royal Albert Docks, near Tilbury, on the 17th October and proceeded by rail to Ripon, in Yorkshire, where it was accommodated in huts. At Ripon the 1st Battn. East Surrey remained for the rest of the year 1919.

To close this record of the services of the 1st Battn. East Surrey during the Great War, a list is given below of the decorations awarded to members of the Battalion, either for services in the North Russian campaign or while extra-regimentally employed during the years 1914 to 1919:—

C.M.G. : Major (Acting Lieut.-Colonel) E. M. Woulfe-Flanagan.

Distinguished Service Order : Captain (Temporary Lieut.-Colonel) H. St. G. Schomberg (attd. 1/6th Battn. Gloucester Regt.).

Military Cross : Captain R. E. C. Adams, while serving as Brigade Major of the 231st Infantry Brigade, 74th (Yeomanry) Division.

Captain E. A. Roe, while serving with 4th Battn. Royal West Surrey Regt.

Lieut. A. M. Arnold, while serving with the Machine Gun Corps.

Lieut. R. W. Burton, while serving with the Machine Gun Corps.

Lieut. A. H. D'E. Forbes, while serving with the 6th Battn. Royal West Surrey Regt.

Lieut. H. N. Fisher, while serving with the Machine Gun Corps.

Lieut. A. C. T. Evanson, while serving with the Machine Gun Corps.

2nd Lieut. W. H. Matthews.

2nd Lieut. R. W. Nuttall, while serving with the 4th Battn. Royal West Surrey Regt.

2nd Lieut. O. M. James, while serving with 1/4th Battn. Royal Berkshire Regt.

Distinguished Flying Cross : Lieuts. C. A. Bridgland and R. P. Pope.

Order of the British Empire : Majors P. B. Stafford and E. St. G. Anson; Captains H. H. Stacke and H. F. Stoneham.

French Croix de Guerre : Captains G. R. P. Roupell and H. H. Stacke.

Italian Bronze Medal : Sergt. J. Lord and Cpl. H. Sitch (attd. Machine Gun Corps).

Meritorious Service Medal : Quartermaster-Sergts. E. H. Joyner and E. Walker; Sergt.-Major J. Davies; Acting Company Sergt.-Major W. Snow; Company Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. W. S. Wayman; Acting Company Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. W. F. J. Smith; Sergts. F. English and S. Smith; Cpl. E. W. Grimsdell.

Distinguished Conduct Medal : Company Sergt.-Majors W. Hemmings, H. Morgan, A. Fitzgibbons and G. E. Nightingale; Sergt. J. Lord.

Military Medal : Pte. T. E. Allum (attd. Royal Flying Corps).

CHAPTER XXIII

NOVEMBER, 1918, TO DECEMBER, 1919: THE 2ND BATTALION IN CONSTANTINOPLE; PROGRESS OF DEMOBILIZATION; THE BATTALION RETURNS TO ENGLAND AND IS STATIONED AT KINGSTON, CLIPSTONE AND ALDERSHOT; UNDER ORDERS FOR SERVICE IN EGYPT.

EARLY on the 12th November, 1918, the 2nd Battn. East Surrey embarked at Salonika in H.M.T. *Katomba* for Constantinople. Gallipoli was passed on the 13th, and Constantinople was reached on the 14th November. As the Battalion was expecting to be among the first troops to enter the city, there was some speculation as to the reception it would meet with from the 15,000 German and Austrian troops who were there with the Turkish Army.

On the 15th the Battalion was transhipped on to ferry-boats and, after proceeding northwards up the Bosphorus, landed on the European shore at a small village called Rumeli Kavak, where it took over six forts (Nos. 12-16) and an anti-aircraft battery from the Turks. The Turkish soldiers appeared to be quite resigned to circumstances and gave no trouble. When the taking over was completed, all breech-blocks were removed from the guns and sent down to the 85th Brigade Headquarters at Biyuk Dere. On the 25th the Battalion furnished a Guard of Honour for General Franchet D'Esperey, Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Orient.

On the 1st December the Battalion took over the forts near Kilios, at the Black Sea outlet of the Bosphorus. Here it spent the month, distributed over a distance of nearly twenty miles along the Bosphorus and Black Sea coasts, and on Christmas Day a plentiful supply of turkeys and plum puddings was provided for the men's dinners.

At the beginning of the New Year the 2nd Battn. "The Buffs" took over the Kilios forts and the 2nd Battn. East Surrey marched a few miles southward to Biyuk Dere, where it remained in readiness in case any disturbance should break out in Constantinople. Towards the end of January advanced parties proceeded to that city to take over the Tashkishla Barracks and the Austrian and German banks in Stamboul. Meanwhile, on the 27th, a large draft, which included all regular soldiers who had service to complete, and all soldiers enlisted for the duration of the War who had been coal-miners or students in civil life, left the Battalion for England. In this draft the Battalion lost its Regimental Sergt.-Major and all its Company Sergt.-Majors and Quartermaster-Sergeants.

The 4th February saw the 2nd Battn. East Surrey assembled in Tashkishla Barracks. On the 7th the Battalion lined the streets from the north end of Galata Bridge, which spans the Golden Horn, to Step Street, in honour of General Allenby's arrival. Next day it performed the same duty at the ceremonial entry of General Franchet D'Esperey as Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in the Near East.



THE 2ND BATTN. EAST SURREY IN CONSTANTINOPLE

Throughout the month of March the strength of the Battalion was steadily reduced by the departure to England of men for demobilization, and on the 22nd 16 officers and 436 other ranks were drafted to the 11th Battn. Royal Welch Fusiliers, the last duty performed in Constantinople by the 2nd Battn. East Surrey being a Guard of Honour furnished for General Paraskevopoulos, the Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Army.

The Battalion was now reduced to a cadre consisting of Lieut.-Colonel C. C. G. Ashton, O.B.E., Captain R. A. Boxshall (Adjutant), Lieuts. C. T. Wheeler, B. L. Prentice, W. E. Miller, J. B. Carter and M. Dockrill (Quartermaster) and thirty-two other ranks. After being inspected on the 6th April by General Sir George Milne, who spoke in complimentary terms of its services during the three years with the Salonika Force, the Battalion embarked at Constantinople in H.M.T. *Ellinger* with other cadres of the old 85th Brigade. It landed at Salonika on the 9th and re-embarked on the 11th in another transport, which reached Taranto, in Southern Italy, on the 14th. Three days later the Battalion left Taranto, proceeding overland to Havre, whence it arrived in Southampton on the 26th. It was then conveyed by rail to the Regimental Depôt at Kingston-on-Thames, where it was received by the Mayor and Corporation, and fêted.

The 2nd Battn. East Surrey Regt. remained at Kingston for three months, during which period Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Baldwin, D.S.O., took over command on the 9th July from Lieut.-Colonel C. C. G. Ashton, who was transferred to the command of the 1st Battalion. On the 26th July the 2nd Battalion moved to Clipstone Camp in Nottinghamshire, where it relieved the 3rd Battn. East Surrey. The Headquarters of the latter Battalion proceeded to Kingston, whilst the rest of its personnel, numbering approximately 1700, was absorbed into the 2nd Battalion, which was reorganized, after 800 "duration of the War" men had been demobilized, into six companies, four of "duty men," one of "employed men" and one of "men for demobilization."

The strikes of 1919 interrupted the stay of the Battalion at Clipstone Camp, as it was moved to the K.O.Y.L.I. Depôt at Pontefract for six weeks during the Coal Strike, and again to Chesterfield, in Derbyshire, for ten days during the Railway Strike. On the cessation of the latter, early in October, the Battalion returned to Clipstone, where it remained until 5th November. It then moved to Corunna Barracks, Aldershot, which was to be its Peace Station.

At Aldershot reorganization was proceeded with and training was commenced. In these matters many difficulties had to be overcome, as very few of the N.C.O.'s had any pre-war experience, and the Battalion consisted for the most part of very young recruits and men serving on short engagements. At the same time all temporary officers were being demobilized, their places being filled by regular officers returning from employment outside the Battalion.

The period, however, available for training, even under these unfavourable conditions, was of no great length, as in December orders came for the Battalion to prepare for service in Egypt, though its embarkation did not take place until the 28th February, 1920.

CHAPTER XXIV

NOVEMBER, 1918, TO FEBRUARY, 1920 : THE 1/5TH BATTALION WITH THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION IN MESOPOTAMIA : TAKES PART IN PUNITIVE OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN KHURDISTAN : RETURNS TO ENGLAND AND IS DEMOBILIZED.

AS already recorded in Chapter XVIII, the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey returned early in November, 1918, from the Lesser Zab to Baiji, after receiving the news of the Turkish Armistice. From Baiji, a village on the right bank of the Tigris some 120 miles above Baghdad, the first party of officers and men for demobilization was despatched to England on the 30th December.

On the 28th February it was notified that the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey would be retained as a unit of the Army of Occupation in Mesopotamia and would receive strong drafts from the 1/5th Battn. "Queen's" and 1/9th Battn. Middlesex Regt. to replace men sent home for demobilization. These arrangements having been carried out, the Battalion settled down at Baiji for garrison duty during the summer months.

During the latter half of May, however, disturbances broke out in Southern Khurdistan, and a punitive force, of which the Battalion formed part, was collected for despatch against the insurgents.

It will be seen, on reference to the map opposite page 186, that from the Tigris Valley about Baiji the country rises in the direction of the Persian frontier by successive terraces, of which the first is, roughly speaking, Jabal Hamrin and the second lies beyond the Kirkuk-Kifri road. Beyond this, again, lies Southern Khurdistan, with its capital, Sulaimaniyah, about 110 miles north-east of Baiji. The mountain ranges of Southern Khurdistan, some of which rise to a height of 4000 to 6000 feet above sea-level, run roughly in a north-westerly and south-easterly direction, with intervening valleys for the most part grassy and well watered by small streams. The roads generally are mere tracks, in places very difficult for wheeled transport. The main track from Mahud on the Lesser Zab to Sulaimaniyah, crosses two of the lower ranges, the first at the Bazyan Pass, twelve miles north-east of Chemchemical, and the second at the Tashlujah Pass, fourteen miles west of Sulaimaniyah.

The leader of the insurgent Khurds was one Sheikh Mahmud, whose first activities were to imprison certain British officers in Sulaimaniyah and to loot a British convoy. A few days later a British reconnoitring party was severely handled by the insurgents at the Tashlujah Pass.

On the 23rd May the Lewis guns of the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey, under Lieut. D. O. Kennedy, were despatched from Baiji up the Lesser Zab valley to Mahud, and thence to Kirkuk. Very shortly afterwards the Lewis guns were in action at the Bazyan Pass and lost four men missing. B Company, under Captain

H. W. Thompson (9th Battn. Middlesex Regt. attd.), and C Company, under Captain H. D. R. Reilly (4th Battn. "Queen's" attd.), followed the Lewis guns to Kirkuk on the 24th and 25th respectively. On the 27th May, "Echelon D," commanded by Lieut.-Colonel G. A. M. Roe, and consisting of the remainder of the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey, a section R.F.A. and the 17th Divisional Cable Section, also left Baiji for Kirkuk, which was reached five days later, the marches averaging eighteen miles a day in intensely hot weather.

On arrival at Kirkuk, on the 31st May, it was learnt that a small British column under the command of Major Fraser, 32nd Lancers, consisting of 300 men of his own regiment and about 100 men of the East Surrey, under Captain Reilly, was cut off at Kara Anjir, half-way between Kirkuk and Chemchemal. Another small column, under Major Jarrett, R.F.A., was then sent out, which succeeded in relieving Major Fraser's force after it had been heavily attacked and without water for thirty-five hours. The East Surrey casualties were Captain H. D. R. Reilly and one lance-corporal killed and three men wounded.

Meanwhile, on the 27th May, Captain Thompson, with eighty men of B Company, had reached Chemchemal, where two days later information was received that a British convoy had been cut up at the gorge between that village and Kara Anjir. On the 31st May, Captain Thompson's company, with a party of the 32nd Lancers and the Lewis guns of the 116th Mahrattas, was despatched to the gorge, but were attacked seven miles out of Chemchemal and driven back by a large body of Khurdish horsemen.

On the 3rd June, Captain Thompson's detachment made another attempt, this time successful, to reach the gorge, where they met another small British force from Kara Anjir. While clearing the track of debris and burying the dead they were again attacked by mounted Khurds and had to fight their way through to Kara Anjir, with a loss to the East Surrey of one man killed and one wounded. From Kara Anjir, Captain Thompson's detachment made their way on the 5th June to Kirkuk, where B Company rejoined the Battalion, which since its arrival had been furnishing escorts for convoys on the Kara Anjir road.

On the 15th and 16th June the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey, with two troops 32nd Lancers and one section of artillery, moved via Kara Anjir to Chemchemal, where they joined the main force commanded by Major-General T. Fraser. Here, during the night of the 16th/17th, Lieut. N. F. Brittan and one man of the Battalion were wounded in camp by snipers.

On the 17th June, "A Column," commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Roe, and consisting of the 32nd Lancers, one section 25th Mountain Battery, No. 2 Company Sappers and Miners and the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey, marched from Chemchemal. The advanced guard encountered hostile horsemen, who were dispersed by the Lancers and the mountain guns, and the column reached the village of Takyah Kara Ahmad, which was found to be deserted. Orders were then received for an attack to be made on the following day on the Bazyan Pass, a cleft, at about 3000 feet above sea-level, in a range of hills which attain a height of some 1000 feet above the Pass.

The Battalion and the other units selected as the attacking force moved off

from their bivouac at 2.15 a.m. on the 18th June, and deployed as follows: The 1/5th Battn. East Surrey was allotted a frontage of 150 yards and had two companies of the 85th Burmans on either flank. In rear of the East Surrey men was the 239th Machine Gun Company, with the 87th Punjabis in support.

The attack commenced at 4 a.m., and half an hour later the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey had taken the Pass and captured many prisoners, including Sheikh Mahmud; while the 85th Burmans had taken the adjacent heights and a considerable number of prisoners also. The advance was continued under a desultory fire till 6.30 a.m., when the pursuit was taken up by the 32nd Lancers, who reached Sulaimaniyah the same evening and released the imprisoned British officers, capturing their guard.

The 1/5th Battn. East Surrey spent the night of the 18th/19th June in bivouac by the Tainal Stream, and next day marched with the force to Keliasan, four miles west of Sulaimaniyah. No enemy was encountered, but considerable difficulty was experienced in getting the wheeled transport over the Tashlujah Pass. From Keliasan small punitive columns were sent to various outlying villages, which were known to be hostile.

The Battalion spent the remainder of the hot season of 1919 at Keliasan, where for some weeks there was no shelter of any description for officers and men. Eventually, 160-lb. tents were provided, but as these were single-fly only, the men living in them had to wear their helmets throughout the day during these very trying months. In the middle of October the Battalion marched back to Kirkuk, where it remained until the 26th December, when it started on its homeward journey.

On reaching Basra, the Battalion embarked for India on the 16th January in the Hired Transport *Vasna*, and at Bombay re-embarked in the H.T. *Vita* on the 1st February. Southampton was reached on the 26th, and the Battalion, after disembarkation, proceeded to Wimbledon. Here demobilization commenced immediately and was completed by the end of March, 1920. So ended the services of the 1/5th Battn. East Surrey during the Great War, and no better estimate of their value could be written than that which is contained in the Memorandum, dated 3rd October, 1919, issued by the Commander-in-Chief in India while the Battalion was still in Southern Khurdistan. This Memorandum is quoted *in extenso* in the following chapter regarding the 1/6th Battalion.

For their services in Mesopotamia, Lieut.-Colonel G. A. M. Roe and Captain J. E. Garrett were twice mentioned in despatches; other officers mentioned being Majors G. B. Chetwynd-Stapleton and A. R. Wheatley, Captains J. N. Eggar and W. H. Hatchard-Smith and Lieut. F. V. Freeborn. Lieut. H. P. Clarke (Royal West Surrey Regt. attd.) was awarded the Military Cross; while Major and Quartermaster W. Tarran and Captain H. W. Thompson (Middlesex Regt. attd.) received the O.B.E. and M.B.E. respectively.

Other decorations awarded to members of the Battalion, and not already recorded in this History, were as follows:—

O.B.E.: Captain S. C. R. Crawford (attd. Judge-Advocate-General's Dept.)

M.B.E.: Lieuts. E. J. Vardon and J. M. Blair.

Military Cross : Captains C. H. Hollis (attd. 1/1st Cambridge Regt.: this officer also received a first and second bar to his M.C.) and R. Gray (attd. Loyal North Lancashire Regt.); Lieuts. F. L. Hird, K. M. Moir, G. Le Blanc Smith (attd. East African Protectorate Force: this officer also received a bar to his M.C.) and 2nd Lieut. N. A. Beechman.

Meritorious Service Medal : Regtl. Sergt.-Major C. E. Boxshall and Pte. C. J. Browning.

It remains only to place on record the names of the officers of the 5th Battn. East Surrey who met their deaths while serving with other units during the Great War of 1914-1918. In the cases where such officers were attached to another battalion of the Regiment, the particular action in which they fell may be ascertained by reference to the previous pages of this History, which give the record of that battalion.

Killed in Action.

Captain F. R. Barry, 4th September, 1918, while serving with the 12th Battn. East Surrey Regt.

Captain E. H. Harrison, 18th September, 1918, while serving with the 8th Battn. East Surrey Regt.

Captain H. K. Nicholls, 4th April, 1918, while serving with the 8th Battn. East Surrey Regt.

Captain A. C. Trembath, 22nd December, 1916, while serving with the 1/23rd Battn. London Regt.

Lieut. M. B. Howarth, 23rd March, 1918, while serving with the 8th Battn. East Surrey Regt.

Lieut. G. Kramer, M.M., 31st August, 1918, while serving with the 1st Battn. East Surrey Regt.

Lieut. V. C. Lowry, 9th April, 1918, while serving with the Machine Gun Corps.

Lieut. W. V. L. Mallett, 22nd March, 1918, while serving with the 13th Battn. East Surrey Regt.

Lieut. A. G. Plante, 26th March, 1918, while serving with the 4th Battn. North Stafford Regt.

Lieut. N. H. Statham, 3rd February, 1917, while serving with the Devon Regt.

Lieut. C. F. Tofts, 7th January, 1918, while serving with the King's African Rifles.

2nd Lieut. S. B. Davies, 26th March, 1918.

2nd Lieut. M. MacEwan, 5th July, 1917, while serving with the 13th Battn. East Surrey Regt.

2nd Lieut. J. H. Stacey, 4th December, 1917, while serving with the Royal Flying Corps.

2nd Lieut. A. Y. Statham, 3rd May, 1917.

Died of Wounds.

- Lieut. A. R. Tod, 18th April, 1918; wounded while serving with the 8th Battn. East Surrey Regt.
2nd Lieut. B. C. Stenning, 26th July, 1917; wounded while serving with the 12th Battn. East Surrey Regt.
2nd Lieut. F. G. Wheatcroft, 26th November, 1917; wounded while serving with the 13th Battn. East Surrey Regt.
2nd Lieut. S. B. Davies, 26th March, 1918; wounded while serving with the 9th Battn. East Surrey Regt.
2nd Lieut. A. G. Statham, 3rd May, 1917; wounded while serving with the 9th Rifle Brigade

CHAPTER XXV

NOVEMBER, 1918, TO NOVEMBER, 1919: THE 1/6TH BATTALION RETURNS TO ENGLAND AND IS DEMOBILIZED.

ON receipt of the news of the Armistice in November, 1918, the 1/6th Battn. East Surrey, which had been stationed at Agra since its return from Aden at the commencement of that year, began to look forward to its early return to England.

Its embarkation was delayed, however, for several months owing to the outbreak of the Afghan War and internal troubles in India. The high standard of discipline in the Battalion was apparent from the soldierly spirit in which, in spite of their disappointment, the men carried out their extra duties for the preservation of the public security and, later on, from the keenness with which they welcomed the orders to prepare for active service in Afghanistan.

The sudden cessation of hostilities with that country having caused these orders to be cancelled, the Battalion shortly afterwards received instructions to be ready for embarkation. Accordingly, on the 15th October, 1919, it left Agra and on the 21st embarked in H.T. *China*, with a strength of 22 officers and 766 other ranks.

Just before the departure of the Battalion from Agra the following communication was issued by the Commander-in-Chief in India to the Territorial units serving under his command:—

“SIMLA,

“3rd October, 1919.

“Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the 1/6th Battalion, the East Surrey Regiment.

“On your departure from India, I desire to place on record my high appreciation of your services to the Empire during the period of the Great War.

“Many of you previous to the outbreak of the War had, by joining the Territorial Force, already given proofs of that patriotism and public spirit for which the Force has rendered itself so conspicuous.

“On the declaration of War your ranks were quickly filled by eager volunteers animated by the same spirit of self-sacrifice. When called upon to undertake the further obligation of service overseas, your response was immediate and unanimous. By so doing, you set free a large number of regular units for service in the main theatres of war, at a time when every trained soldier was of the greatest value.

“I share with you the disappointment which I know you all feel so keenly, that it has not been your lot to fight the enemy in Europe. Many of you, however, have seen service on the Indian frontiers, and by your con-

duct and bearing have added to the reputation of the famous Regiments whose names you bear.

"For the greater portion of your service in India, you have been engaged in the somewhat dull routine of Garrison Duty. The standard of efficiency which you have attained, both in training for war and in discipline, reflects the highest credit on you all.

"Since the termination of active fighting in all the theatres of War you have been subjected to the further stress of waiting for your relief. That you have appreciated the difficulties which the Authorities have had to face in this respect is clear from the patience with which you have borne this trying period.

"You are now returning to your homes in the United Kingdom, and I bid you good-bye, God speed and a happy home-coming.

"As an old Commander of a Territorial Division at Home, I am proud to have again been associated with this Force in India.

"(Signed) C. C. MONRO,

"Commander-in-Chief in India."

The 1/6th Battn. East Surrey disembarked at Devonport on the 9th November, 1919, and proceeded to a dispersal camp at Sandling, where the preliminaries of demobilization were carried out. On the 11th and 12th November the Battalion returned to its county to complete demobilization and received a hearty welcome both at Kingston and Richmond, where representative parties were entertained at luncheon by the Mayors and Corporations.

Thus ended the services, as a unit, of the 1/6th Battn. East Surrey Regt. in the Great War, and in view of Sir Charles Monro's letter quoted above any further comment as to the great value of these services would be superfluous. To complete their record, however, it is necessary to add a list of those officers who met their deaths while serving with other units from 1914 to the end of the War, and a further list of decorations, awarded to members of the Battalion, which have not been recorded elsewhere in this History. It should be mentioned that during the period of the War thirty-nine N.C.O.'s and men of the Battalion were granted commissions.

(i) *List of Officers of the 6th Battn. East Surrey who met their deaths while serving with other Units in the Great War.*

(a) *Killed in Action.*

Captain G. Beaumont, M.C., 9th April, 1918, while serving with the 13th Battn. East Surrey Regt.

Lieut. J. C. Hutchinson, 22nd March, 1918, while serving with the 2/4th Battn. Leicester Regt.

Lieut. J. E. M. Michelmores, 9th April, 1918, while serving with the 13th Battn. East Surrey Regt.

6TH BN. OFFICERS WHO DIED SERVING WITH OTHER CORPS 249

Lieut. L. F. Stevens, 25th March, 1918, while serving with the 4th Battn. North Stafford Regt.

2nd Lieut. C. P. Barton, 27th August, 1916, while serving with the 1/8th Battn. Royal Warwick Regt.

2nd Lieut. J. H. Bone, 22nd July, 1916, while serving with the 1/5th Battn. Sherwood Foresters.

2nd Lieut. R. N. Goodyear, 24th April, 1917, while serving with the 13th Battn. East Surrey Regt.

2nd Lieut. H. W. Kiver, 17th April, 1917, while serving with the 9th Battn. East Surrey Regt.

2nd Lieut. L. W. B. Russell, 20th September, 1917, while serving with 12th Battn. East Surrey Regt.

2nd Lieut. C. H. Stainer, 15th November, 1916, while serving with the 10th Battn. Loyal North Lancashire Regt.

(b) *Died.*

Captain F. Lester, 25th March, 1918, in German hands, of wounds received while serving with the 9th Battn. East Surrey Regt.

Captain H. L. Mortimore, 21st September, 1917, of wounds received while serving with the 18th Battn. King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Captain J. B. Raymond, M.C., 4th October, 1918, of wounds received while serving with the 1/5th Battn. Sherwood Foresters.

Lieut. J. F. Harries, 30th June, 1918, in hospital in London after being invalided from the 1/6th Battn. East Surrey Regt. in India.

2nd Lieut. P. J. Williams, 17th May, 1917, of wounds received while serving with the 7th Battn. Royal Berkshire Regt.

(ii) *Decorations awarded to Officers and Other Ranks of the 6th Battn. East Surrey Regt. which are not recorded elsewhere in this History.*

C.B.E. : Colonel J. L. G. Powell.

O.B.E. : Colonel A. P. Drayson, Lieut.-Colonel G. H. Osborne and Major G. C. Pullman.

M.B.E. : Captain G. M. Eden.

Military Cross with Bar : Major N. Burgan (attd. Indian Army).

Military Cross : Lieuts. R. S. Brewis (attd. Royal West Surrey Regt.), G. E. Mann (attd. Manchester Regt.), C. I. Tinniswood (attd. Royal Welch Fusiliers), H. A. Pattinson (attd. Indian Army) and A. W. Marshall (attd. 1st Battn. East Surrey Regt.); 2nd Lieut. E. W. Young, M.M. (attd. Royal Flying Corps).

Distinguished Flying Cross : Lieuts. R. E. A. Dash and C. L. Philcox (both attd. to the Royal Flying Corps).

Meritorious Service Medal : Sergts. F. Packer, M. E. Church and L. J. Phipps; Pte. E. T. Thomas.

CHAPTER XXVI

NOVEMBER, 1918, TO JUNE, 1919: THE 8TH BATTALION EMPLOYED IN SALVAGE WORK ABOUT ELINCOURT; THE KING'S VISIT: THE PRESENTATION OF COLOURS: DEMOBILIZATION: RETURN OF THE CADRE TO ENGLAND AND DISBANDMENT.

THE 8th Battn. East Surrey remained at Pommereuil, near Le Câteau, where it had received the news of the Armistice, until on the 13th November it marched back to Elincourt, eight miles south-west of Le Câteau, and there settled down to a period of pleasant training. It was generally anticipated that the 18th Division, with a record second to none in the British Army, would be chosen to move to the Rhine as part of the Army of Occupation. These hopes, however, were shortly afterwards dispelled. The Battalion was allotted an area for salvage work, and for some weeks every morning was spent in collecting into large roadside dumps enormous quantities of timber, wire, equipment, rifles, Lewis guns and similar material. The afternoons, however, were spent in recreation, and company and platoon football matches were arranged.

At the end of November, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin returned to command the Battalion; but after a few days he left for England, to attend a course at the Tactical School, Camberley. Although he was again with the Battalion cadre for a few months in 1919, this departure really marked the close of his command of the Battalion as such. Appointed to the unit in the early days of the War as Adjutant, he had preserved an almost unbroken connection with it throughout the campaign. As Adjutant, as officer commanding A Company, as Second-in-Command, by his unfailing enthusiasm and remarkable abilities, he soon gained a great reputation throughout the 18th Division. When, on the retirement of Colonel Powell in June, 1916, Major Irwin was appointed to the command of the Battalion, he was the recipient of many messages of congratulation. Thereafter, save for a short break while wounded and several spells as Brigade Commander, he commanded the Battalion until its disbandment commenced. He had gained the D.S.O. and two bars, had been four times mentioned in despatches, and had also been awarded the brevet of Major. There will be but few who served in the 8th Battn. East Surrey, whether as officers, N.C.O.'s or men, who will forget the zeal, tact, ability and personal charm of this gallant officer, to whom the Battalion owed so much.

On 2nd December the Battalion took part in the Divisional Review. This was a most impressive parade, and took place on some cleared ground near Elincourt. The Battalion was specially congratulated on its smart turn-out and on its march past. Two days later, on the 4th December, the 18th Division had the privilege of a Royal visit. His Majesty the King, accompanied by H.R.H. the

Prince of Wales, visited Elincourt and, alighting from his car, walked through the village streets. He was enthusiastically greeted by all ranks.

Towards the middle of December the Battalion moved to Malincourt, some two miles from Elincourt, and took over a new salvage area. Here arrangements for the Christmas festivities were soon undertaken. Lorries toured the country for supplies, billets were decorated, and at length a most delightful four days marked the last Christmas of the 8th Battn. East Surrey. The Divisional Commander, Major-General Sir R. P. Lee, visited the Battalion and presented ribands to those who had recently been awarded decorations. A theatre in the village was the centre of great attraction each evening; while in the afternoons cross-country running and football competitions occupied the attention of all ranks. In the final of the Divisional Inter-Company Cup, B Company succumbed (1—0) to 56th Field Ambulance, which later on succeeded in getting into the final stages of the Corps competitions.

Meanwhile the Education Scheme had been taken up with marked enthusiasm by a large proportion of the Battalion. Under the direction of Captain W. F. C. Embley, numerous classes in Commercial Arithmetic, Shorthand, English, French and Drawing were started, and the numbers attending these courses far exceeded those of any other unit in the Division. This, and the excellent results of the Battalion School, were largely due to the keenness and energy of Captain Embley and his band of instructors, most of whom were officers and men of the Battalion itself. Side by side with these classes were others for the regular and reattested soldiers in the Battalion. Special instruction in Lewis-gun work and musketry was arranged; while a junior N.C.O.'s school was also established.

At the New Year, Regtl. Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. H. W. Gardner received the Meritorious Service Medal; while in a later list Major (Acting Lieut.-Colonel) W. H. Baddeley received the Distinguished Service Order; Sergt. W. H. M. Osborn the Distinguished Conduct Medal; Sergt. W. E. Osborne the Meritorious Service Medal, and Cpl. R. Burrows the Military Medal.

On the 16th January the Battalion took part in a Brigade Parade for the presentation of Colours. The Brigade was drawn up near Villers Outreaux, and the inspecting officer was Lieut.-General Sir T. L. N. Morland, Commanding XIII Corps. Lieut. G. V. Cranham was the subaltern of the 8th Battn. East Surrey detailed to carry the Colour. After the consecration and presentation, the Battalion marched past, and then formed up with the other battalions to be addressed by the Corps Commander.

Including, as it does, a short and comprehensive history of the Battalion, the address is here quoted in full:—

“ General Borrett, Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men of the 55th Infantry Brigade and Royal Sussex Pioneers:

“ Before presenting to you the Colours which have been granted to you by His Majesty the King, I wish to say a few words.

“ You belong to four distinguished regiments, all of which have fought

with distinction in many lands during the last three centuries. Your old regular battalions already bear upon their Colours a long list of Battle Honours. I know that you have absorbed their traditions, and that you are proud of their fine records. Now, without detracting in any way from the glories of the past, it is certainly true to say that this War has been immeasurably greater than all other wars in the magnitude of the numbers involved, in the tremendous power of the weapons used, in the continuity of the fighting and the length of time that battles have lasted. Consequently the casualties in individual battalions have been considerably greater than in previous wars. It is not too much to say, then, that the Battle Honours you have won have been gained, I do not say with greater bravery, but at infinitely greater sacrifice, than in any previous record of Military History.

" Raised in September, 1914, after a long period of training in England you landed in France in July, 1915, and I am proud to say that, for the first seven months of your service in this country, you served under my command in the X Corps.

" Your first big battle was the Somme in July, 1916, in which you took a most distinguished part. Montauban, Trônes Wood, Delville Wood, Thiepval, Schwaben Redoubt, Pys, Irles, Chérisy, are some historic names with which your battalions will be for ever honourably associated.

" Next, in Flanders in 1917, you took part in those great battles and added to your laurels ' Poelcapelle.'

" During the great German offensive in the spring of last year you were heavily engaged and made a great stand at Fort Vendeuil. There A Company of the Royal Sussex greatly distinguished itself by holding up the German attack for twenty-four hours at Rémigny.

" Forced to retire, you did so in good order; and were later honourably engaged at Hangard and Villers Brettoneux.

" On the 8th August, when the tide had turned, you took part in the first great British victory at Morlancourt. Later you took Albert, Tara Hill, Montauban (for the second time), Sailly Saillisel, Ronssoy and Vendhuile.

" Finally, after a period of rest, you took part in the last great victories, taking Bousies, and going right through the *Fôret de Mormal*.

" Truly a magnificent record of which you have every reason to be proud, and second to none in the British Armies !

" Now let me say a word about the Colours themselves—their meaning, their value and their inspiration. You have just taken part in the solemn service of consecration. In bestowing them upon you, the King gives you a sacred trust. They are the emblems of the honour of the Regiment; and of loyalty to King and Country. In the days when they were carried into action, they formed a rallying-point in time of stress, and an inspiration to deeds of valour. Throughout the course of history, many officers and men laid down their lives in their defence. They thus typify the Spirit of Sacrifice.

" In handing them to you to-day, I do so confident that you will guard

them jealously, and that they will embody for you the spirit of the Regiment. That they will be for you the standard of loyalty and of discipline; that, as they typify for you the sacrifice that your battalions have made in the number of your gallant comrades who have laid down their lives in this War, so not one of you in your future service, however long or short it may be, will do anything to tarnish their lustre, or the honour of your Regiment."

The parade dismissed, the Battalion marched back to billets, which were then visited by the Corps Commander, who spoke words of praise and encouragement to many individual officers, N.C.O.'s and men.

This memorable parade was almost the last full turn-out of the 8th Battn. East Surrey. Demobilization had now begun, and before the end of the month 4 officers and 98 other ranks had left for England; while during February there was a further loss of 3 officers and 218 other ranks. Meanwhile the Battalion had left Malincourt; and after a stay of several weeks at Troisvilles, near Le Câteau, during which time hare-hunts were the source both of much amusement to the troops and much profit to the menu, eventually moved on to the neighbouring village of Bertry. From this place a draft of 12 officers and 200 other ranks proceeded to Cologne on 18th March to join the 9th Battalion of the Regiment, which was in the Army of Occupation.

On their departure, and with a further 160 men demobilized during March, the remainder of the Battalion was formed into one company. Shortly afterwards instructions as to the formation of a Battalion cadre were received. All men with unexpired service and volunteers were then despatched to a newly formed unit, and the 8th Battn. East Surrey became a cadre of 4 officers and 48 other ranks. Surplus stores were handed in to the Ordnance, and all baggage for England was dumped near the rail-head on the Cambrai-Le Câteau line at Caudry, whither in April the cadre itself moved.

Early in April, Major W. H. Baddeley left the Battalion, with which he had spent nine eventful months, in order to take up the appointment of Second-in-Command of a battalion of the London Regt. Appointed as Second-in-Command of the 8th Battn. East Surrey in July, 1918, at a period when the consolidation of the Amiens front was a matter of primary importance, his previous experience as a company commander in the 8th (Pioneer) Battn. Royal Sussex Regt. was invaluable. He commanded the 8th Battn. East Surrey during the heavy fighting near Morlancourt at the beginning of August, 1918, and during the Advance to Victory, at the capture of Albert, at Bousies and in the Forêt de Mormal. After his retirement from the Army he wrote the greater part of this record of the 8th Battn. East Surrey from the 1st January, 1918.

As May went on, the cadre, now back at Bertry, close to Caudry, was still further reduced in numbers, while it awaited orders to return to England. At Bertry, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin finally handed over command to Captain G. Milner (4th Battn. attd.) and proceeded on leave to England prior to joining the 1st Battalion. Two other officers only now remained with Captain Milner, viz. Lieut. A. E. H. Bright (4th Battn. attd.) and Quartermaster A. H. Davis, D.C.M.

Early in June the long-expected orders for Home arrived, and the cadre travelled viâ Boulogne, reaching Kingston-on-Thames on the 18th June, 1919. At Kingston an official welcome had been arranged for, but as the cadre arrived there somewhat unexpectedly, the proceedings on the 18th were purely informal. Next day, however, the official welcome took place at the Town Hall, where the cadre, which had been enthusiastically cheered on its way from the Depot Barracks, was addressed by the Mayor and the Member of Parliament for the Division. Later in the day the men were entertained at dinner. The 20th June, 1919, saw the dispersal of the cadre to their own homes.

The foregoing record of the 8th Battn. East Surrey, one of which any regiment might be proud, affords sufficient proof of the heroism and devotion of its individual members, whose total casualty list while in France amounted to 180 officers and 4595 other ranks. Many of their finest deeds, however, remain unrecorded and known only to those who fell, whose memory the Battalion recalls with pride.

CHAPTER XXVII

NOVEMBER, 1918, TO MARCH, 1920: THE 9TH BATTALION AFTER THE ARMISTICE; AT TOURNAI, WHERE IT RECEIVES THE KING'S COLOUR; WITH THE BRITISH ARMY OF OCCUPATION ON THE RHINE; THE BATTALION RETURNS TO ENGLAND AND IS DISBANDED.

AT the date of the Armistice the 9th Battn. East Surrey was at St. Waast, near Bavai, and on the 17th November it joined the 72nd Brigade Column and marched in it for three days westwards towards Douai, reaching Ecaillon, six miles east of that town, on the 19th. At Ecaillon information reached the Battalion that the 24th Division was to be quartered in the Tournai area, and on the 25th the march was resumed, this time northwards to Genech (ten miles south-west of Tournai), which was reached on the 26th. Here the Battalion remained till the 18th December, when it moved into Tournai. The whole of the 72nd Brigade was accommodated in the Tournai Infantry Barracks, with the exception of the officers, who were billeted in the town. Preparations for the Christmas dinners commenced at once, the necessary supplies being brought by lorry from St. Omer, and the barrack-rooms were decorated for the occasion.

With the New Year arrived news of the award of the C.M.G. to Lieut.-Colonel E. A. Cameron, who had recently been appointed to command the 17th Infantry Brigade. His successor in command of the Battalion was Major J. C. Brown. During January and February all ranks were occupied in training, educational classes and games.

On February 21st the 72nd Brigade, consisting of the 9th Battn. East Surrey, 12th Battn. Sherwood Foresters and 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt., paraded for the presentation of the King's Colour to each battalion. General Sir H. Horne, Commanding the First Army, had intended to carry out the presentation, but being prevented by illness he deputed Lieut.-General Sir A. Holland, Commanding I Corps, to take his place. The following is an extract from the address delivered by Sir A. Holland after the ceremony of presentation:—

“The 72nd Infantry Brigade has a magnificent record throughout this War. It first fought at Loos in 1915, after a long and trying march from the coast. It was next engaged in the attack on Guillemont and in the heroic defence of Delville Wood. The Brigade then moved north and took a distinguished part in the Battle of Messines and in the Third Battle of Ypres. In the Great German Offensive in 1918, the 72nd Infantry Brigade played a glorious part, holding up many overwhelming attacks, and by its courage and fighting spirit saving the situation on many occasions.

“To such gallant battalions, I, with absolute confidence, entrust these Colours, in the name of His Majesty the King, asking you to remember that, as they represent all that is most glorious in the past history of your

Regiments, so they must be an inspiration enabling you to add to your Country's glory in the future."

In reply, Brigadier-General R. W. Morgan, after thanking the presenting officer, said:—

"These battalions are justly proud of their record in the War, and I have always felt it a great honour to have them under my command.

"All may soon cease to exist as units, but the Colours will remain as a lasting symbol of their loyalty and devotion to His Majesty, and should it ever be found necessary to re-form the battalions, the flags which you have just presented to them will form a rallying point, round which will again be displayed that lofty sense of duty, comradeship and devotion which has ever distinguished the 9th Battn. East Surrey Regt., the 8th Battn. Royal West Kent Regt. and the 12th Battn. Sherwood Foresters."

Towards the end of February it was notified to the Battalion that it would shortly join the 41st Division of the Army of Occupation on the Rhine in place of the 12th Battn. East Surrey, which was to be disbanded.

The progress of demobilization had by this time reduced the strength of the 9th Battn. East Surrey to 24 officers and 406 other ranks, of whom 21 officers and 385 other ranks volunteered for duty on the Rhine. At this strength the Battalion entrained at Tournai on the 12th March and detrained at midnight of the 13th in the British zone of occupation at Hoffnungsthal (near Volberg, ten miles east of Cologne), where it went into billets as reserve battalion of its new Brigade. This was the 122nd Brigade of the 41st Division, the other Battalions of the Brigade being the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt., the 23rd Battn. Middlesex Regt. and the cadre of the 12th Battn. East Surrey, from which 9 officers and 300 other ranks had been transferred to the 9th Battalion.

Colonel Cameron rejoined the Battalion on the 21st March, and about this time several changes took place. The 41st Division was renamed the London Division, and the 122nd Brigade became the 1st London Brigade, in which the 15th Battn. Hampshire Regt. was replaced by the 7th Battn. Middlesex Regt., while the cadre of the 12th Battn. East Surrey proceeded to England.

On the 2nd April the Battalion relieved the Queen's Westminsters in the Marialinden sector of the outpost line, some sixteen miles east of Cologne. No incident of any particular interest occurred during this tour of duty. Road controls and working parties were furnished by the Battalion, the latter for the construction of wire entanglements on the main line of defence.

On the 12th April the Battalion was relieved by the 23rd Battn. Middlesex Regt. and moved into Brigade Reserve in the Volberg area. A month later it moved by train to Koln Kalk, the eastern suburb of Cologne, where it was in Divisional Reserve, finding numerous picquets and guards over the bridges and other points in the city. On the 16th May the Battalion marched to the river bank and cheered Marshal Foch as his steamer passed down stream to Cologne. The French Commander-in-Chief's guard of honour was furnished by the Bat-

talion next day on his departure by rail. The King's birthday (3rd June) was celebrated by a parade of the 1st London Brigade, under Brigadier-General W. M. Withycombe, in the market square of Cologne. On the 19th June orders were received for readiness for an immediate advance into German territory. No advance took place, as news arrived on the 24th that the Germans had signed the Treaty of Peace with the Allies.

On the 15th July the 1st London Brigade moved eastward to the outpost line, the Battalion going into camp at Ehreshoven, where it remained throughout August, winning the Brigade cross-country run on the 25th. On the 1st September the Battalion relieved the 23rd Battn. Middlesex Regt. in the right sub-sector of the Divisional front about Engelskirchen, where three companies were in camp until they moved into billets on the 4th October, the remaining company being in the outpost line from Hardt, close to Engelskirchen, northwards to Lindlar. On the 23rd October another company was put into the outpost line to relieve the 23rd Battn. Middlesex Regt. at Lindlar, so that the Battalion now held seven posts from Hardt to Steinbach, the latter place being about five miles north-west of Engelskirchen.

Since the signing of the Peace Treaty demobilization had been continuous, with the result that, on the 13th October, D Company had practically ceased to exist.

Early in November orders arrived for the Battalion to return to England, and on the 8th it entrained at Engelskirchen with a strength of 24 officers and 362 other ranks and proceeded via Cologne, Huy and Tournai to Calais, where it arrived on the 10th. On the following day the s.s. *Arundel* conveyed the Battalion to Dover, whence it proceeded by rail to Clipstone Camp, Notts, and was there attached to the Highland Brigade.

On the 20th November, Colonel E. A. Cameron, Major J. C. Brown and 6 other officers and 54 other ranks proceeded to Kingston-on-Thames, where the Mayoress placed a laurel wreath on the Colour. The party was afterwards entertained at lunch by the Mayor and Corporation.

No other incident of importance occurred during the stay of the Battalion at Clipstone until the 8th March, 1920, when the final demobilization of officers and other ranks commenced. By the 23rd of that month only 4 officers and 24 other ranks were left. They remained until the 27th March, 1920, on which date the 9th Battalion officially ceased to exist.

From the Battle of Loos, in September, 1915, to the final defeat and flight of the Germany Army in November, 1918, the 9th Battn. East Surrey had played its part with constant energy and determination. It had been its fate to share in reverses as well as in victories, but whether Fortune smiled or frowned, the Battalion never lost the cheerful philosophy for which it was known and never failed to follow or to rally to its brave leaders.

CHAPTER XXVIII

NOVEMBER, 1918, TO JUNE, 1919: THE 12TH BATTALION MARCHES ACROSS BELGIUM TO HUY AND PROCEEDS THENCE BY RAIL TO JOIN THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION ON THE RHINE; REPLACED IN ARMY OF OCCUPATION AT VOLBERG BY 9TH BATTALION, WHICH TAKES OVER MOST OF THE 12TH BATTALION PERSONNEL; FINAL DISBANDMENT.

THE receipt of the news of the Armistice was celebrated in the 12th Battn. East Surrey Regt. near Renaix in Belgium on the 12th November by sports and a concert. On the 13th and 14th the Battalion marched to Everbecq, twenty-five miles south-west of Brussels.

During November the only casualty was one man wounded, and the strength of the Battalion at the date of the Armistice was 36 officers and 650 other ranks.

On the 1st December the Battalion attended a special Memorial Service for those who had fallen in the War, and on the 12th the Battalion resumed its march eastwards towards the German frontier. With one day's rest on the 15th at Wanthier-Braine, close to the Field of Waterloo, the march continued past Ligny and Namur till the 21st December, when the Battalion reached Warnant, twenty-five miles west of Liège.

The Battalion remained at Warnant till the 7th January, when it marched to Huy and there entrained. It detrained on the 8th at Hoffnungsthal, in Germany, and on the following day marched to Marialinden (fifteen miles east of Cologne), where it relieved the 5th Canadian Battalion, finding one and a half companies for the outpost line. The section of the outpost line held by the detachment about Drabenderhohe, twenty-two miles from the Rhine at Cologne, was the most eastern post of the British zone. For those men who were not on duty, educational classes in book-keeping, shorthand and French and various competitions, including football, boxing and inter-company drill, were arranged. On the 26th January the first party of men for demobilization was sent off to England, and by the end of February the total strength of parties so despatched amounted to 4 officers and 146 other ranks.

At Overath, near Marialinden, on the 12th February, the G.O.C. the Second Army presented the Colour to the Battalion, which was relieved two days later by the 18th Battn. K.R.R.C., and went into reserve in the Volberg area, some ten miles east of Cologne. Here it was joined on the 7th March by the 9th Battn. East Surrey, which on the following day replaced it in the 122nd Brigade. All officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the 12th Battalion who were to be retained in the Army of Occupation, to the number of 9 officers and 300 other ranks, were forthwith transferred to the 9th Battalion.

The 12th Battalion thus became a cadre, retaining only those officers, N.C.O.'s and men who were to be demobilized. The cadre, now commanded by Captain D. Walker, as Lieut.-Colonel Brown, Major C. T. Williams and nine

other officers had proceeded to England, moved on the 31st March to the 41st Divisional Reception Camp at Koln Kalk, a suburb of Cologne on the right bank of the Rhine. By the 12th May the cadre was reduced to 4 officers and 36 other ranks, and on the 22nd it moved to Antwerp and thence to Aldershot, where it arrived on the 28th May. On the last day of May the personnel of the cadre was entertained at a luncheon given at the London Bridge Hotel by the Mayor of Bermondsey. The handing in of stores and equipment continued until the 10th June, 1919, on which date the 12th Battn. East Surrey officially ceased to exist.

During its two and a half years of active service in France, Flanders and Italy the Battalion saw much hard fighting, and by its gallantry and endurance added much to the great reputation of the Regiment to which it belonged. At what cost this was accomplished may be gathered from the subjoined table, which gives the Battalion's war wastage, exclusive of that caused by sickness, from the time it landed in France to the date of the Armistice:—

	Officers.	Other Ranks.
Killed in action:	26	456
Died of wounds:	7	114
Wounded:	86	1826
Prisoners of War:	4	166
Missing:	3	66
	<hr/> 126	<hr/> 2628

The following awards, in addition to those already recorded, were notified to the Battalion after the date of the Armistice:—

Distinguished Conduct Medal: Company Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. W. J. Steer; Sergts. W. Jolly, H. Mills and R. J. Mutimer; Cpl. J. M. Rogers; Lce.-Cpl. W. Rainbow.

Meritorious Service Medal: Sergts. C. W. Field and L. C. Lunn; Cpl. G. A. Elliott.

Bar to Military Medal: Sergt. D. Staines; Cpl. J. M. Rogers; Pte. A. Pocock.

Military Medal: Company Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. W. J. Steer; Cpl. E. J. Bailey; Lce.-Cpls. G. Bunnet, J. Ralph and E. C. West; Ptes. G. Church, A. E. Collings, W. C. Humphreys, H. C. Keith, E. Lugo, G. Roud, J. Ratty, J. W. Trout and R. Watts.

French Croix de Guerre: Lieut.-Colonel G. L. Brown; Company Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. W. J. Steer; Sergt. H. Mills; Cpl. E. J. Bailey; Lce.-Cpl. O. J. George; Pte. W. Felstead.

Belgian Croix de Guerre: 2nd Lieut. A. J. Rodd; Sergt. B. G. Burgess; Cpls. F. Goble and J. McFie.

Médaille Militaire: Company Sergt.-Major W. Hall.

APPENDIX

NOMINAL ROLL OF WARRANT OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS,
AND MEN WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION, OR DIED OF WOUNDS OR
DISEASE IN THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1919

Abbott, H. W.	Pte.	Aldous, W.	Pte.	Anderson, G.	Pte.
Abel, W. J.	Pte.	Aldred, H. E.	Pte.	Anderson, R.	Pte.
Abrahamson, N.	Pte.	Aldridge, E. J.	Pte.	Anderson, R. A.	Pte.
Abrahart, J. W.	Pte.	Aldridge, E. J. (1193)	Pte.	Andrews, A. C.	Pte.
Abram, R. A.	Pte.	Aldridge, H. F.	Pte.	Andrews, A. E.	Pte.
Abrams, L. G.	Pte.	Aldridge, J.	Pte.	Andrews, C. T.	Pte.
Abrey, J.	Pte.	Alexander, E. J.	Pte.	Andrews, C. W.	Pte.
Abrey, W.	Sergt.	Alexander, H.	Pte.	Andrews, F.	Pte.
Acca, A. E.	Pte.	Alexander, H. (11820)	Pte.	Andrews, J. E.	L./Corp.
Ackerman, A. J.	Pte.	Alexander, V. E.	Sergt.	Andrews, J. F.	Pte.
Ackerman, T.	Pte.	Alexander, W.	Pte.	Andrews, R. L.	L./Corp.
Acklin, L. H.	Pte.	Alger, G.	Pte.	Andrews, R. S.	Pte.
Ackrill, A. G. W.	Pte.	Alkin, H. A.	Pte.	Andrews, W. R.	Pte.
Adams, A.	Pte.	Allard, W.	Pte.	Angell, W.	L./Corp.
Adams, A. (10145)	Pte.	Allchin, W. T.	Pte.	Angood, M.	Pte.
Adams, A. A.	Pte.	Allcroft, V. H.	Pte.	Anning, J.	Pte.
Adams, A. J.	Pte.	Allen, A. R.	Sergt.	Ansell, A.	Pte.
Adams, A. J. (10935)	Pte.	Allen, C.	Pte.	Ansell, S. H.	Pte.
Adams, E. F.	Pte.	Allen, E. H.	Pte.	Ansty, A. E.	Pte.
Adams, F. E.	Pte.	Allen, E. S.	Pte.	Anthony, E. W.	Pte.
Adams, F. W.	A./Corp.	Allen, F.	Pte.	Appleyard, F.	Pte.
Adams, H. J.	Corp.	Allen, F. L.	Pte.	Apps, C. H.	Pte.
Adams, J. P.	A./Sergt.	Allen, F. W.	Pte.	Apps, O. W.	Pte.
Adams, L. V.	Pte.	Allen, G. A.	Pte.	Arbourne, A. F.	Pte.
Adams, W. C.	Pte.	Allen, H. T.	Corp.	Archer, E. J.	Pte.
Adamson, A.	Pte.	Allen, L. R.	Pte.	Archer, J.	Pte.
Adcock, A. H.	Pte.	Allen, P.	Pte.	Archer, W.	Pte.
Adcock, J. R.	L./Sergt.	Allen, S.	Pte.	Ardouin, G.	Pte.
Addicott, A. E.	Pte.	Allen, T.	Pte.	Argyle, S.	Pte.
Addy, F. K.	Pte.	Allery, W.	Pte.	Arliss, W.	Pte.
Adey, J. F.	Pte.	Alloway, J. H.	Pte.	Armstrong, A.	Pte.
Adlington, F. C.	Pte.	Allsopp, F.	L./Corp.	Armstrong, E. R.	Pte.
Adlington, L. D.	Pte.	Allum, E. J.	Pte.	Armstrong, R.	Pte.
Ainge, W.	Pte.	Allum, W. C.	Pte.	Armtriding, E.	Pte.
Ainger, H.	Pte.	Alsford, A.	Pte.	Arnall, P.	L./Corp.
Ainslie, E.	Pte.	Alston, A. A. F.	Pte.	Arney, J.	Pte.
Ainsworth, C.	L./Corp.	Alworthey, H. F.	Pte.	Arnold, D. G.	Pte.
Airey, F. W.	Pte.	Ambler, H.	L./Corp.	Arnold, E. A.	L./Corp.
Akerman, W.	Pte.	Amess, F. C.	L./Sergt.	Arnold, H.	Pte.
Alderman, A. J.	Pte.	Amor, C. E.	Corp.	Arnold, H. (1903)	Pte.
Alderton, W. G.	Pte.	Amos, A. H.	Pte.	Arnold, W. H.	Pte.
Aldis, H.	Pte.	Ancourt, C.	Sergt.	Arnold, W. W.	Pte.

Arter, J.	Pte.	Babington, E. G.	Pte.	Balcombe, J.	Pte.
Arthur, F.	Pte.	Backhouse, W.	Pte.	Baldehy, C. W.	Corp.
Ash, G.	Pte.	Backhurst, H.	L./Corp.	Baldock, T.	Pte.
Ashbourne, R. E.	Pte.	Bacon, A. J.	Pte.	Baldwin, J. F.	Pte.
Ashbury, W.	Pte.	Bacon, J.	Pte.	Baldwin, W. A.	Pte.
Ashby, G.	Pte.	Baggs, L.	Pte.	Baldy, P.	Pte.
Ashby, J. A. G.	Pte.	Baggs, W. J.	Pte.	Balkham, W. H.	Pte.
Ashford, E.	L./Corp.	Bagshaw, R. L.	Pte.	Ball, H. S.	Pte.
Ashley, A. R.	Pte.	Baigent, F.	Pte.	Ball, J.	Pte.
Ashman, A.	Pte.	Baigent, H. W.	Pte.	Ball, T.	Sergt.
Ashmore, G. A.	Pte.	Bailey, A.	Pte.	Ball, T.	Pte.
Askew, J.	Pte.	Bailey, A. A.	Pte.	Ball, W.	L./Corp.
Askew, S. T.	Pte.	Bailey, C. H.	Pte.	Ballam, H. W.	Sergt.
Askey, H.	Pte.	Bailey, E.	Pte.	Ballard, E.	Pte.
Aspey, J.	Pte.	Bailey, G.	Pte.	Ballard, W.	Pte.
Aston, G.	C.Q.M.S.	Bailey, G. T.	Pte.	Balls, F. J.	Pte.
Aston, H. F.	Pte.	Bailey, H. E.	Sergt.	Balls, J.	Pte.
Aston, T.	Corp.	Bailey, O.	Pte.	Balls, J. W.	Pte.
Atkins, A.	L./Corp.	Bailey, R. H.	Pte.	Balls, W. A.	Pte.
Atkins, F.	Pte.	Bailey, T. B.	Corp.	Balston, L. A.	Pte.
Atkins, G.	Pte.	Bailey, W.	L./Corp.	Bamberger, O. H.	Pte.
Atkinson, A.	Pte.	Bainbridge, R. H.	Pte.	Bamford, A. D.	L./Corp.
Atkinson, J. I.	Pte.	Baines, E. H.	Pte.	Bance, A. E., M.M.	Pte.
Atkinson, J. W.	Pte.	Baines, W.	Pte.	Banchini, V. W.	Pte.
Atkinson, T.	Pte.	Baisden, A.	Pte.	Bandey, J. S.	Pte.
Atkinson, W.	Pte.	Baker, A.	Pte.	Bangs, A.	Pte.
Atkinson, W. (28731)	Pte.	Baker, A. (5155)	Pte.	Banham, D.	Pte.
Atterbury, W. J.	Pte.	Baker, A. (10272)	Pte.	Banks, J. W.	Pte.
Atterwill, A.	Pte.	Baker, C.	Pte.	Banner, A. F.	Pte.
Attfield, H. E.	L./Corp.	Baker, E.	Pte.	Bannister, F.	Pte.
Atthews, L. H.	Pte.	Baker, E.	L./Corp.	Barber, A. F.	Pte.
Atwood, L. R.	Pte.	Baker, E. E.	Pte.	Barber, F. A.	Pte.
Austin, C. J.	Pte.	Baker, E. T. A.	Pte.	Barber, F. E.	L./Corp.
Austin, E.	Pte.	Baker, F.	Pte.	Barber, G. J.	L./Corp.
Austin, G. E.	Pte.	Baker, G.	Pte.	Barber, G. J.	Pte.
Austin, H. H.	Pte.	Baker, G. A.	Pte.	Barber, H.	Pte.
Austin, J. H.	Pte.	Baker, G. A. (2544)	Pte.	Barber, H. (6950)	Pte.
Aveling, J. W.	Pte.	Baker, H.	Pte.	Barber, W. E.	Corp.
Aven, G.	Pte.	Baker, J. A.	L./Corp.	Barbour, R.	Pte.
Aves, C. E.	Pte.	Baker, J. W.	Pte.	Barfield, G.	Pte.
Arcell, J. H.	Pte.	Baker, M.	Pte.	Barham, C.	Pte.
Axleby, F. E.	Pte.	Baker, R.	Pte.	Barker, A.	Sergt.
Ayling, T. W.	Pte.	Baker, R. E.	Sergt.	Barker, A. J.	Pte.
Aylward, A. S.	Pte.	Baker, R. W.	Sergt.	Barker, E.	Pte.
Ayres, C. W.	Corp.	Baker, T.	Pte.	Barker, E. J.	Sergt.
Ayres, J. A.	Pte.	Baker, W.	Pte.	Barker, G. E.	Pte.
Ayres, P.	Pte.	Baker, W. E.	Pte.	Barker, H.	Pte.
Babbage, F. T.	Pte.	Baker, W. J.	Pte.	Barker, H. J.	L./Corp.
		Balchin, E.	Pte.	Barker, H. W.	Pte.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 263

Barker, P. E.	Pte.	Bashford, A.	Pte.	Beauchamp, A.	Pte.
Barker, W.	Pte.	Bashford, D.	Pte.	Beauchamp, A. (11123)	Pte.
Barklamb, E.	Pte.	Bashford, W.	Pte.	Beauchamp, W. F.	Pte.
Barlett, F. W., M.M.	Pte.	Baskerfield, S.	L./Corp.	Beaumont, C. J.	Pte.
Barlow, J. T.	Pte.	Baskett, A. C.	Pte.	Beavis, H. V.	Pte.
Barnard, A.	Pte.	Bass, A. E.	Pte.	Beavis, L. E.	Pte.
Barnard, H.	Pte.	Bass, F. C. W.	Pte.	Beavon, T.	Pte.
Barnard, H. J.	Pte.	Bassett, A. E.	Pte.	Beck, C. T.	Pte.
Barnes, A.	Pte.	Bassett, J. G.	L./Corp.	Becker, J.	Pte.
Barnes, C. H.	Pte.	Batch, C. C.	Pte.	Beckett, W. J.	L./Corp.
Barnes, F. A.	Pte.	Batchelor, H. E.	Pte.	Bedford, A.	Pte.
Barnes, G. E.	Pte.	Batchelor, W. E.	Pte.	Bedford, H. F.	L./Corp.
Barnes, G. W.	Pte.	Bateman, A.	Pte.	Bednall, E.	Pte.
Barnes, H.	Pte.	Bateman, C. W.	Pte.	Bedwell, G.	Pte.
Barnes, P.	Pte.	Bateman, G. H.	Pte.	Beehag, J.	Pte.
Barnes, T.	Pte.	Baterip, C.	Pte.	Beer, A. H.	Pte.
Barnes, W.	Pte.	Bates, A.	Pte.	Belcham, H. A.	Pte.
Barnett, A.	Sergt.	Bates, H. C.	Pte.	Belcher, E.	L./Sergt.
Barnett, F.	Pte.	Bath, A.	Pte.	Belcher, J.	Pte.
Barnett, H. J.	Pte.	Bathurst, A. E.	Sergt.	Beldon, G. N.	Pte.
Barnett, J.	Pte.	Batt, G. F.	Pte.	Bell, A.	Pte.
Barnett, T. G.	L./Sergt.	Battelle, E.	Pte.	Bell, H.	Pte.
Barnett, W.	Pte.	Batten, J. R.	Pte.	Bell, J. T.	Pte.
Barnett, W. J.	Pte.	Batter, H. E.	Pte.	Bell, R. A.	Pte.
Barnham, C. J.	Pte.	Battershall, H.	Pte.	Bellingham, B. C.	Pte.
Barnsdale, A.	Pte.	Baugh, F. J.	Corp.	Bellingham, C.	Pte.
Barratt, A.	Pte.	Baulch, R. J.	Pte.	Bellingham, W. G.	Corp.
Barrett, D. J.	Pte.	Bavin, T.	Pte.	Belsey, A.	Pte.
Barrett, F.	Pte.	Bavister, W. E.	Pte.	Belsham, J.	Pte.
Barrett, H.	Pte.	Bax, H. S.	Pte.	Bemmer, J. H.	Pte.
Barrett, J.	Pte.	Baxter, H.	Dr.	Bench, R.	Pte.
Barrett, R.	Pte.	Baxter, P. W.	Pte.	Bendall, W. T.	Pte.
Barrett, R. (676)	Pte.	Baxter, W.	Pte.	Benfell, G. A.	Pte.
Barrett, W. E.	Sergt.	Bayliss, S.	Pte.	Benham, F. C.	Pte.
Barron, G. H.	Pte.	Beadle, A.	Pte.	Benjamin, N. H. W.	Pte.
Barry, E. C.	Pte.	Beadle, W.	Pte.	Bennett, A. E.	L./Corp.
Barthorpe, W. J.	Pte.	Beadon, W.	Pte.	Bennett, A. W.	Pte.
Bartlett, T. E.	Pte.	Beagley, J.	Pte.	Bennett, B. J.	L./Corp.
Bartlett, W.	Pte.	Beale, G. W.	Pte.	Bennett, B. J.	Pte.
Bartlett, W. H.	Pte.	Bean, C. G.	Pte.	Bennett, C. L.	Pte.
Bartley, P. E.	Pte.	Bean, W. A.	Pte.	Bennett, F.	Pte.
Bartley, T.	Pte.	Beanes, A. W.	Pte.	Bennett, G.	Pte.
Barton, C.	Pte.	Bear, J. T.	Pte.	Bennett, H.	Pte.
Barton, E. J.	L./Corp.	Beard, A.	Pte.	Bennett, S. C.	Pte.
Barton, R. E.	L./Sergt.	Beard, F. A.	L./Corp.	Bennett, S. W.	Pte.
Bartram, A.	Pte.	Beard, N. S.	Pte.	Bennett, W.	Pte.
Bartram, J. E.	Pte.	Bearman, W. R.	Pte.	Bennett, W. (21209)	Pte.
Bartram, T.	Pte.	Beasley, C. P.	L./Corp.	Bennett, W. P.	Pte.
Baseley, A. S.	Pte.	Beasley, W. J. H.	Pte.	Benneworth, G. H.	Pte.

Bennie, J. C.	Pte.	Bird, W. C.	Pte.	Bolton, E. E., M.M.	
Bennison, V. H.	L./Corp.	Bird, W. H.	Pte.		L./Corp.
Benson, A.	Pte.	Birmingham, T.	Pte.	Bolton, H. T.	L./Corp.
Benson, B. W.	Pte.	Bish, E.	Pte.	Bolton, N.	Pte.
Benson, W. A.	Pte.	Bishop, A. E.	Pte.	Bolton, W. H.	Corp.
Bent, I. L.	Pte.	Bishop, F.	L./Corp.	Bond, A. W.	Pte.
Bent, R. J. W.	Corp.	Bishop, F. A.	Pte.	Bond, F.	Pte.
Bentley, H. J.	Pte.	Bishop, F. A. (42220)	Pte.	Bond, W. J.	Pte.
Benton, W.	Pte.	Bishop, J. F.	L./Corp.	Bone, T.	Pte.
Benzie, W.	Pte.	Bishop, J. W.	Pte.	Bone, W. A., M.M.	Corp.
Bernstein, L.	Pte.	Bishop, L. T.	Corp.	Bonfield, R.	Pte.
Berridge, P. L.	L./Corp.	Bishop, W. F.	L./Corp.	Bonnell, W. F.	Pte.
Berry, J.	Pte.	Bisson, C. C.	Pte.	Bonner, A.	Pte.
Berry, T. A.	Pte.	Biswell, J.	Sergt.	Bonnett, F. J.	Pte.
Bertram, J.	Pte.	Bitten, W. H.	Pte.	Bonney, H.	L./Corp.
Bessant, F.	Sergt.	Black, B. R.	Pte.	Boobier, A.	Pte.
Best, W.	Corp.	Black, J. A.	Pte.	Boosey, A.	Pte.
Bethell, F. C.	Pte.	Blackett, H.	Pte.	Booth, F.	Pte.
Bettleley, R.	Pte.	Blackledge, A. W.		Booth, H. B.	Pte.
Bettell, G.	Pte.		L./Corp.	Booth, R. H.	Pte.
Bettney, R.	Pte.	Blackman, W.	L./Corp.	Boreham, J. W.	Pte.
Betts, A.	Pte.	Blackman, W. W.	Pte.	Bory, C. A.	Pte.
Betts, E. W.	Corp.	Blackmore, W.	Pte.	Boston, C.	Corp.
Betts, T.	Pte.	Blair, B.	Pte.	Boston, H. F.	Pte.
Bevan, A. S.	Pte.	Blake, A.	Pte.	Boswell, T.	Pte.
Bevan, J. O.	Pte.	Blake, F.	Pte.	Botting, G.	Pte.
Bianchi, C. H.	Pte.	Blake, G.	Pte.	Botting, G. (19576)	Pte.
Bibbings, S. E.	Pte.	Blake, G. W.	Pte.	Botting, W.	Pte.
Bicker, F.	Pte.	Blake, J. G.	Pte.	Bottomley, J. W.	Pte.
Bickerdyke, W.	Pte.	Blake, W.	Pte.	Boughton, A. R.	Pte.
Bickerton, W.	Pte.	Blake, W. A.	Pte.	Boughton, R. H.	L./Corp.
Bicknell, F.	Corp.	Blake, W. P.	Pte.	Boughton, W. J.	Pte.
Biggs, E.	Pte.	Blaver, S.	Pte.	Bourne, G.	Pte.
Biggs, J. W.	Pte.	Blease, F.	Pte.	Bourne, H.	Pte.
Bignell, C.	A./C.S.M.	Bleeze, L.	Sergt.	Bourner, B.	Pte.
Bignell, V.	Pte.	Blezard, W.	Pte.	Bournes, E.	Pte.
Billings, E.	Pte.	Bliss, T. W.	Pte.	Bournes, G.	Pte.
Billington, C.	Pte.	Blissett, H. F.	Pte.	Boutcher, W.	Pte.
Bindon, W.	Pte.	Blower, A.	Pte.	Bowden, S.	Pte.
Binks, C. J.	Pte.	Blower, F. C.	L./Corp.	Bowen, A. W.	Pte.
Birch, A. T.	Pte.	Blowers, B.	Pte.	Bowen, G.	Pte.
Birch, E. J.	L./Corp.	Blythe, C.	Pte.	Bower, A.	Pte.
Birch, S.	Pte.	Boak, H. P.	Pte.	Bowker, F.	Pte.
Bird, C.	Pte.	Boatwright, J.	Sergt.	Bowler, A.	Pte.
Bird, F. T.	Pte.	Bocock, J. L.	Pte.	Bowler, H. L.	Pte.
Bird, H. A.	Pte.	Bodsworth, J.	Pte.	Bowler, L.	Pte.
Bird, T.	Pte.	Boggis, W. A.	Pte.	Bowles, C. F.	Pte.
Bird, W., M.M.	Pte.	Bolt, H. G.	Pte.	Bowles, F.	Pte.
Bird, W. A., M.M.	C.S.M.	Bolton, A.	Pte.	Bowman, E. T.	C.S.M.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 265

Bowra, C. H.	Sergt.	Brett, R. E.	Pte.	Broughton, A. V.	Pte.
Bowring, H. F.	Pte.	Brewer, G. W.	Pte.	Brown, A. G.	Pte.
Bowry, A.	L./Corp.	Brewer, H. A.	L./Corp.	Brown, A. S.	Pte.
Bowyer, F. E.	Pte.	Brewser, E.	Pte.	Brown, B.	Pte.
Bowyer, W.	Pte.	Brian, E. J.	Pte.	Brown, C.	Pte.
Boxall, C. B.	Pte.	Briant, E.	Pte.	Brown, D.	Pte.
Boxall, G. T.	L./Corp.	Bridcutt, C. A.	Pte.	Brown, E.	Pte.
Boyce, F. W.	Pte.	Bridger, E. E.	Pte.	Brown, F.	Pte.
Boyce, H.	Pte.	Bridger, F.	Pte.	Brown, F. A.	Pte.
Boyce, W. S.	Corp.	Bridges, W.	Pte.	Brown, G.	Pte.
Boyd, H. A.	Pte.	Bridges, W. J.	Pte.	Brown, G. (12500)	Pte.
Brabant, E. J.	Pte.	Bridgland, J. W.	Pte.	Brown, G. F.	Pte.
Brackston, H.	Corp.	Brier, V. W.	Pte.	Brown, G. F., M.M.	
Brackwell, W.	Pte.	Brigden, W.	Pte.		Sergt.
Bradbury, J. B.	Pte.	Briggs, R. W.	Sergt.	Brown, G. R.	L./Corp.
Braden, A. W.	Pte.	Briggs, W.	Pte.	Brown, G. W.	Pte.
Brader, T.	Pte.	Brighton, E.	Pte.	Brown, G. W. (39853)	
Bradford, J. C.	Pte.	Brinkley, J. W.	A./Corp.		Pte.
Bradley, A.	L./Corp.	Bristow, J. H.	Pte.	Brown, H.	Pte.
Bradley, A. J.	Pte.	Bristow, T.	Pte.	Brown, H. W.	Pte.
Bradley, E. T.	Pte.	Bristow, W.	Pte.	Brown, J., M.M.	Pte.
Bradley, F. A.	Pte.	Bristow, W. T. A.	Pte.	Brown, J. (6908)	Pte.
Bradnum, G.	L./Corp.	Brittain, R. J.	Pte.	Brown, J. (6971)	Pte.
Bradshaw, F. C.	Pte.	Britten, G. J.	Pte.	Brown, J. (29292)	Pte.
Bradstreet, F.	Corp.	Britton, A. G.	Pte.	Brown, J. A.	Pte.
Bragg, C.	Pte.	Britton, J. J.	Pte.	Brown, J. F.	Pte.
Brambley, W.	Pte.	Broad, A.	Pte.	Brown, J. S.	Sergt.
Brame, A.	L./Corp.	Broad, W. J.	Pte.	Brown, J. T.	Pte.
Bramley, S.	L./Corp.	Broadley, C. J.	Pte.	Brown, J. T. (10803)	Pte.
Brand, W. G.	Pte.	Brock, G. E.	Pte.	Brown, J. W.	Pte.
Brandon, J. G.	Pte.	Brocklehurst, J. W.	C.	Brown, L.	Pte.
Braney, J.	Pte.		Pte.	Brown, P. C.	Pte.
Bray, A. H. E.	Pte.	Brockwell, G. T.	Pte.	Brown, R. O. S.	Pte.
Brayley, F.	Pte.	Bromhall, L. C. A.	Pte.	Brown, R. W.	Pte.
Brazenor, R. C.	L./Corp.	Brooker, S. G.	Pte.	Brown, S. R.	Pte.
Brazier, H. A.	Pte.	Brooker, W.	Pte.	Brown, T.	L./Corp.
Brazier, J.	Pte.	Brookfield, S. J.	Pte.	Brown, T. H.	L./Corp.
Brazier, R. E.	Pte.	Brookman, S. C.	Pte.	Brown, T. W.	Pte.
Breakspear, F.	Pte.	Brookman, T.	Pte.	Brown, W.	Pte.
Breakspeare, C.	Pte.	Brooks, A.	Pte.	Brown, W. (25287)	Pte.
Bream, E. W.	Pte.	Brooks, A. (5739)	Pte.	Brown, W. F.	Pte.
Breban, L.	Pte.	Brooks, B. J.	Pte.	Brown, W. F. (16200)	Pte.
Breewood, T.	Pte.	Brooks, F.	Pte.	Brown, W. H.	L./Corp.
Breirgan, A.	Pte.	Brooks, H. L.	Pte.	Brown, W. I.	Pte.
Brench, G. W.	L./Corp.	Brooks, W.	Pte.	Browning, W.	Pte.
Brenman, J.	Pte.	Brooks, W. (39908)	Pte.	Browning, W. C.	Pte.
Brenton, W. J.	Pte.	Brooks, W. A.	Pte.	Bruce, H. S.	Pte.
Brett, G. C.	L./Corp.	Brookson, A. G.	Pte.	Brummen, G.	Pte.
Brett, P.	Pte.	Broomfield, J.	Pte.	Brunger, P. W.	Pte.

Brunker, H.	Pte.	Burcham, J.	Pte.	Butler, F.	Pte.
Brunt, F. W.	Pte.	Burden, W. W.	Pte.	Butler, F. E.	Pte.
Brush, G. W.	Pte.	Burdett, H.	Pte.	Butler, H.	Pte.
Bryan, A. M.	L./Corp.	Burdock, W.	Pte.	Butler, H. P.	Pte.
Bryan, G. M.	Corp.	Burfitt, C.	Pte.	Butler, J. H.	Sergt.
Bryant, A. J.	Pte.	Burge, S. G.	Pte.	Butler, R.	Pte.
Bryant, C. R.	Pte.	Burgess, A.	Pte.	Butler, W.	Pte.
Bryant, E. J.	Pte.	Burgess, A. E. B.	Pte.	Button, L. J.	Pte.
Bryant, G. R.	Pte.	Burgess, A. G.	L./Corp.	Button, R.	Pte.
Bryant, W.	Pte.	Burgess, G. W.	Pte.	Button, T. E.	Pte.
Buchanan, R. G.	Pte.	Burgess, H.	A./Corp.	Butts, A. W.	Pte.
Buck, J. H.	L./Corp.	Burgess, L. R.	Pte.	Bye, E.	Pte.
Buckenhams, W. J.	Corp.	Burgess, W.	Pte.	Bye, G.	Pte.
Buckingham, F.	Pte.	Burgess, W. G.	Pte.	Byerley, J. A. W.	Pte.
Buckle, A.	Pte.	Burke, A.	Pte.	Byford, A. A.	Pte.
Buckle, A. F.	L./Corp.	Burke, C. S.	Pte.	Byford, R.	Pte.
Buckle, G. S.	Pte.	Burke, W. E.	Pte.	Bynoth, T.	Pte.
Buckle, J.	Pte.	Burkin, W.	Pte.	Byrd, W. T.	Pte.
Bucknell, A. S.	Pte.	Burkmar, W. A.	L./Corp.		
Bucknell, P. H.	Pte.	Burley, H. A.	Pte.	Cable, E.	Pte.
Budd, P. J., M.M.	Pte.	Burn, F. C.	Pte.	Cadenaci, F. C.	Sergt.
Budden, H.	Pte.	Burnell, G.	Pte.	Cage, P., M.M.	Pte.
Budge, E. J.	Pte.	Burnett, L.	Pte.	Cahill, F. W.	Pte.
Budgen, W.	Pte.	Burns, F. J.	Pte.	Caiger, J. R. W.	Pte.
Bugby, G. J.	Pte.	Burns, P.	Pte.	Cairns, R.	Pte.
Buick, R.	Pte.	Burr, A.	Pte.	Caisbrook, J. H.	A./Sergt.
Bulbeck, E.	Pte.	Burridge, C.	Pte.	Cakebread, J.	Pte.
Bull, A. E.	Pte.	Burrows, A.	Pte.	Caleno, A.	L./Corp.
Bull, F.	Pte.	Burrows, E.	Pte.	Caley, H.	Pte.
Bull, G.	Corp.	Burrows, H. J.	Pte.	Callan, E. H.	Pte.
Bullen, A.	Pte.	Burt, T. J.	L./Sergt.	Callaway, H.	Pte.
Bullen, A. G. M.	Pte.	Burton, A. E.	Pte.	Callingham, A. C.	Pte.
Bullen, H.	Pte.	Burton, A. R.	Pte.	Callow, H.	L./Corp.
Bullen, R.	Pte.	Burton, B. E.	L./Corp.	Callow, L. J.	L./Corp.
Buller, J.	Pte.	Burton, G.	Pte.	Callow, W. C.	Pte.
Buller, E. F.	Pte.	Burton, M. J.	Pte.	Calver, G. E.	Pte.
Bullingham, W.	Pte.	Burton, T.	Pte.	Came, B. C.	Pte.
Bullock, W.	Pte.	Burton, W.	Pte.	Campbell, F.	Pte.
Bullock, W. (6269)	Pte.	Burton, W. T.	Pte.	Campbell, G.	Pte.
Bunce, A.	Pte.	Bushby, A.	Pte.	Campion, W. C.	Pte.
Bundle, F.	Pte.	Buss, W.	Pte.	Cane, A. V.	Pte.
Bundle, W. J.	Pte.	Bussey, W. A.	Pte.	Cane, T.	Pte.
Bunker, J.	Pte.	Butcher, G. J.	Pte.	Canham, C. G.	Pte.
Bunn, F. G.	Pte.	Butcher, H. G.	Pte.	Cann, J. P.	Pte.
Bunting, A.	Pte.	Butcher, W.	Pte.	Canning, F.	Pte.
Burbridge, B.	Pte.	Butler, A. G.	Pte.	Cannon, A.	Pte.
Burch, A.	Pte.	Butler, C.	Pte.	Cannon, J.	Pte.
Burch, L.	Pte.	Butler, E. J.	Pte.	Cannon, L. R.	Pte.
Burch, P. H.	Pte.	Butler, E. W.	Sergt.	Cansdale, E.	Pte.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 267

Cansdale, J. T.	Pte.	Casey, J.	Pte.	Chapman, F. C.	Pte.
Cant, C.	Pte.	Cassidy, H. S.	L./Corp.	Chapman, G.	Sergt.
Caplin, W.	Pte.	Cassidy, J.	Pte.	Chapman, H.	L./Corp.
Capon, C. G.	Pte.	Castle, A.	Pte.	Chapman, H. E.	Pte.
Capper, A.	Pte.	Castle, T.	Pte.	Chapman, H. S.	Pte.
Capstick, W.	Pte.	Caston, A. W.	Pte.	Chapman, J.	Pte.
Card, A. E.	Pte.	Catley, H. C.	Pte.	Chapman, J. (10567)	Pte.
Carey, B.	Pte.	Catlin, D. H.	Pte.	Chapman, J. V.	Pte.
Carey, F.	Pte.	Caton, J.	Pte.	Chapman, P. J.	Pte.
Carnell, R.	Pte.	Cattell, G. C.	Pte.	Chapman, S. C.	Pte.
Carney, W. E.	Pte.	Cattell, R.	Corp.	Chapman, W.	Pte.
Carpenter, A.	Pte.	Cave, A. W.	Pte.	Chapman, W. H.	Pte.
Carpenter, E.	Pte.	Cave, W. H.	Pte.	Chappel, W.	Pte.
Carpenter, R.	Pte.	Cavendish, G. F.	Pte.	Chappell, H.	Pte.
Carpenter, S. M.	L./Corp.	Chadwick, F. P.	Pte.	Chappell, J. W.	Pte.
Carpenter, W. J.	Pte.	Chalcraft, F.	Pte.	Charge, W.	Pte.
Carr, A. B.	Pte.	Chalk, S. F.	Pte.	Charles, H.	Pte.
Carrigan, T.	Pte.	Challenger, W. E.	Pte.	Charman, A.	Pte.
Carrington, J. V.	Pte.	Challis, A. W.	L./Corp.	Charman, F. E.	Pte.
Carroll, J.	Pte.	Challis, C. A.	Pte.	Charman, W. H.	Pte.
Carroll, W.	Pte.	Challis, F.	Pte.	Charman, W. J.	Pte.
Carruthers, J.	Pte.	Chalmers, G.	Pte.	Charter, W.	Pte.
Carter, A.	Pte.	Chamberlain, E.	Pte.	Chase, A.	Pte.
Carter, A. M.	Pte.	Chamberlain, J.	Pte.	Chasteauneuf, E. H. B.	Pte.
Carter, A. W.	Pte.	Chamberlain, W.	Pte.		
Carter, C.	Pte.	Chamberlain, W. R.	Pte.	Chatfield, C. J.	Pte.
Carter, C. G.	Pte.	Chambers, A.	Pte.	Chatterton, W. T.	Pte.
Carter, C. S.	Pte.	Chambers, C.	Pte.	Chatwin, R.	Pte.
Carter, E.	Pte.	Chambers, E. B.	Pte.	Cheal, A. W.	Pte.
Carter, F.	Pte.	Champion, H. J.	Pte.	Cheatle, G. E.	Pte.
Carter, G.	Pte.	Champion, R. A.	L./Sergt.	Checkley, W. W.	Pte.
Carter, H. J.	Pte.	Champkin, F.	Pte.	Cheek, J. P. P.	Pte.
Carter, H. J. (25200)	Pte.	Chance, J. B.	Pte.	Cheeseman, H. W.	Pte.
Carter, H. T.	Pte.	Chance, W.	Pte.	Chenery, H. H.	L./Sergt.
Carter, J.	Pte.	Chandler, A. C.	L./Corp.	Chequer, C.	Pte.
Carter, J. H.	Pte.	Chandler, J. C.	Pte.	Cheshire, R.	Pte.
Carter, R.	Pte.	Chandler, S. E.	Pte.	Chessell, S. H.	Pte.
Carter, R. G.	Pte.	Chandler, W.	Corp.	Chidgey, T.	Pte.
Carter, W., D.C.M.	Pte.	Chandler, W.	Pte.	Child, R. V.	Pte.
	Sergt.	Chaney, R. F., M.M.	Pte.	Childs, C. E.	Pte.
Carter, W.	Pte.		Sergt.	Childs, E.	Pte.
Carter, W. (10682)	Pte.	Chaplin, C.	Corp.	Childs, W. F.	Sergt.
Carter, W. G.	Pte.	Chaplin, J. W.	Pte.	Chillmaid, F. A.	Pte.
Carter, W. T.	Pte.	Chapman, A. E.	Pte.	Chilton, L.	Pte.
Caryll, E. T.	Pte.	Chapman, C. L.	Pte.	Chilver, C.	Pte.
Casbolt, E. G.	Pte.	Chapman, E.	Pte.	Chilvers, A. R.	Pte.
Caseley, C. E.	Pte.	Chapman, E. (204334)	Pte.	Chilvers, J.	Pte.
Caseley, J. T.	Corp.		Pte.	Chilvers, L. M.	Pte.
Casey, J., D.C.M.	Corp.	Chapman, E. W.	Pte.	Chilvers, S.	Pte.

Chimes, D. P.	Pte.	Clarke, A.	Pte.	Cloud, A.	Pte.
Chippendale, E. S.		Clarke, A. (6126)	Pte.	Clover, H.	A./Sergt.
	L./Corp.	Clarke, A. (32317)	Pte.	Clubb, J. G.	Pte.
Chipping, H.	L./Corp.	Clarke, A. E.	Pte.	Coates, J.	Pte.
Chipping, P.	Pte.	Clarke, A. H.	Pte.	Coates, J. R.	Pte.
Chittenden, S. F.	Pte.	Clarke, C. H.	Pte.	Cobb, A.	Pte.
Chittock, W.	Pte.	Clarke, F.	Pte.	Cobb, A. (22068)	Pte.
Chitty, T. W.	Pte.	Clarke, F. H.	Pte.	Cobb, W.	Pte.
Chitty, W.	Pte.	Clarke, G.	Pte.	Cobbold, F.	Corp.
Chivers, H.	Pte.	Clarke, G. (28265)	Pte.	Cobden, G.	L./Sergt.
Chivral, G. W.	Pte.	Clarke, H.	Pte.	Cock, G.	Pte.
Chowne, H. T.	Pte.	Clarke, H. (13817)	Pte.	Cockerell, W. H.	Pte.
Chowney, H. A.	Pte.	Clarke, H. C.	Pte.	Cockerill, G. H.	Pte.
Christian, B. F.	L./Corp.	Clarke, H. J.	Pte.	Cockerill, T. E.	Pte.
Christie, G.	Pte.	Clarke, H. S.	Pte.	Cocks, C.	Pte.
Church, C. F.	Pte.	Clarke, J.	L./Sergt.	Cockshutt, W.	Pte.
Church, J.	Pte.	Clarke, J.	Pte.	Coe, B.	A./Sergt.
Church, J. H.	Pte.	Clarke, J. G. S.	Pte.	Coe, S.	Pte.
Church, T. S.	Pte.	Clarke, J. H.	Pte.	Coe, S. L.	Pte.
Church, V.	Pte.	Clarke, J. P.	Pte.	Coeshall, P.	L./Corp.
Churcher, A.	Pte.	Clarke, T. C.	Pte.	Cogger, C. F.	Pte.
Churcher, A. (15863)	Pte.	Clarke, V. J.	Pte.	Cogger, G.	Pte.
Churcher, H. G.	Pte.	Clarkson, J.	Pte.	Colborn, J. C.	Pte.
Churchill, G.	Pte.	Clary, E. A.	Pte.	Cole, F.	Pte.
Churn, R.	Sergt. Dr.	Claxton, G. W.	A./Corp.	Cole, H. C.	Pte.
Clapham, G. H.	Pte.	Claydon, A. C.	Pte.	Cole, J.	Pte.
Clapp, J.	Sergt.	Claydon, H. C. F.	Pte.	Cole, T. J.	Pte.
Clapton, A.	Pte.	Claydon, S. A.	Pte.	Coleby, E.	Pte.
Clarebottom, B. J.	Pte.	Clear, H.	Pte.	Coleman, A.	Pte.
Claringbold, E.	Pte.	Cleavelly, J.	Pte.	Coleman, A. G.	Corp.
Clark, A.	Pte.	Clements, A.	Pte.	Coleman, G.	Pte.
Clark, A. (8281)	Pte.	Clements, E.	L./Corp.	Coleman, H. G.	Pte.
Clark, A. C.	Pte.	Clements, F.	Pte.	Coleman, P.	Pte.
Clark, E.	L./Corp.	Clements, H. H.	Pte.	Coleman, R. H.	Pte.
Clark, E. P.	Pte.	Clements, J.	Pte.	Colenutt, E. A. S.	Pte.
Clark, F.	Pte.	Clements, W.	Pte.	Coles, J.	Pte.
Clark, F. A.	Pte.	Clements, W. A.	Pte.	Coles, J. (28665)	Pte.
Clark, F. S.	Pte.	Clements, W. T.	Pte.	Coles, J. E.	Pte.
Clark, J.	Pte.	Clevely, F.	Pte.	Coles, P. J.	Pte.
Clark, J. (8285)	Pte.	Clevett, W. R.	Pte.	Coles, R.	Pte.
Clark, J. S.	Corp.	Cliff, C. E.	Pte.	Collar, E.	Pte.
Clark, R.	Pte.	Clifford, A.	Pte.	Colcutt, G.	Pte.
Clark, R. F.	L./Corp.	Clifton, A. C. T.	Pte.	Collean, F. C.	Pte.
Clark, R. V.	Pte.	Clifton, C. A.	Pte.	Collen, E.	Pte.
Clark, T.	Pte.	Clinton, E.	Pte.	Collett, P. F.	Pte.
Clark, T. V.	Pte.	Clipsham, W. H.	Corp.	Colley, H. P.	Pte.
Clark, W.	Pte.	Clipson, L. D.	Pte.	Collier, J. T.	Pte.
Clark, W. A.	A./Corp.	Clipston, R.	Pte.	Collier, R.	Pte.
Clark, W. J.	Pte.	Cloak, H. T.	Pte.	Collins, A. W.	Pte.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 269

Collins, C. W.	Pte.	Cook, H. P.	Pte.	Corbett, C. J.	Pte.
Collins, F.	Pte.	Cook, R.	Pte.	Corbett, H. J.	Pte.
Collins, F. H.	Pte.	Cook, R. W.	Pte.	Cordell, E. W., M.M.	Sergt.
Collins, F. L.	Pte.	Cooke, A.	Pte.	Corderoy, J. J.	Pte.
Collins, G.	Pte.	Cooke, A. J.	Pte.	Corderoy, W. G.	Pte.
Collins, H. J.	L./Corp.	Cooke, F.	L./Corp.	Corderoy, A.	Pte.
Collins, J. R., M.M.	Pte.	Cooke, F.	Pte.	Cordock, F. G.	Pte.
Collins, J. W.	Pte.	Cooke, H.	Pte.	Corduroy, E.	Pte.
Collins, N.	Pte.	Cooke, H. J.	Pte.	Corlett, T. A.	L./Corp.
Collins, S.	Pte.	Cooke, P.	Pte.	Cornelius, R.	L./Corp.
Collins, S. D.	Pte.	Cooke, T. A.	Pte.	Cornelius, T. H.	Pte.
Collins, W. H.	L./Corp.	Cooke, W. H.	Pte.	Cornell, J. A.	Pte.
Collins, W. H.	Pte.	Cooksey, F.	Pte.	Corney, J.	Pte.
Collip, A. B.	Pte.	Coole, G. G.	Pte.	Cornford, C. E.	Pte.
Collis, J. F.	Pte.	Cooling, J.	Pte.	Cornish, G.	Pte.
Collis, R.	Pte.	Coomber, C.	A./C.S.M.	Cornish, G. W.	Pte.
Collis, W. D.	Pte.	Coomber, W. A.	Pte.	Cornwell, G.	Pte.
Collis, W. E.	L./Corp.	Coombes, F.	Pte.	Cosidge, P. G. A.	Pte.
Collyer, A. E.	Pte.	Coombes, H.	Pte.	Coster, C. H.	Sergt.
Colman, H. G.	Pte.	Coombes, H.	A./Corp.	Cotsford, J. E.	Pte.
Colvin, J.	Pte.	Coombes, T. C.	Pte.	Cottage, E.	Sergt.
Combes, F.	Pte.	Cooper, A.	L./Corp.	Cotter, J.	Pte.
Comley, J. E.	Pte.	Cooper, A. E.	Pte.	Cotterall, F.	Pte.
Compton, J. H.	Pte.	Cooper, C.	Pte.	Cottis, C.	Pte.
Condon, V. B.	Sergt.	Cooper, C. G.	L./Corp.	Couldridge, G. A.	Sergt.
Conley, J. R.	Pte.	Cooper, C. V.	Corp.	Couldridge, W. E.	Pte.
Connell, E.	Pte.	Cooper, E.	Pte.	Coulstock, H.	L./Corp.
Connett, F.	Pte.	Cooper, E. J.	Pte.	Coupe, W.	Pte.
Connor, F.	L./Corp.	Cooper, F.	Pte.	Court, C.	Pte.
Conquest, L. A.	Corp.	Cooper, F. W.	L./Corp.	Courtneil, W. G.	Pte.
Conrad, G.	Pte.	Cooper, G. F.	Pte.	Courtney, L. T.	Pte.
Constable, J. J.	Pte.	Cooper, G. H.	Sergt.	Cousens, W. T.	Pte.
Convine, S. R.	Pte.	Cooper, G. H.	Dr.	Cousins, E. J.	Pte.
Conway, A.	Pte.	Cooper, H.	Pte.	Cousins, G.	Pte.
Conway, E. H. T. G.	Pte.	Cooper, H. C.	L./Corp.	Cousins, W.	Sergt.
Cooch, F. E.	Pte.	Cooper, H. G.	Pte.	Couvell, F.	Pte.
Cook, A.	Pte.	Cooper, J. J.	Corp.	Cowan, R.	Pte.
Cook, A. G.	Pte.	Cooper, J. W.	Pte.	Cowell, W.	Pte.
Cook, C.	Pte.	Cooper, N.	Pte.	Cowey, H. E.	Pte.
Cook, E.	Pte.	Cooper, R.	Pte.	Cowing, F. C.	Pte.
Cook, E. J.	L./Sergt.	Cooper, W.	Pte.	Cownley, C. V.	Pte.
Cook, E. W.	Pte.	Cooper, W. H.	Pte.	Cowperthwaite, J.	Pte.
Cook, F.	L./Corp.	Cope, J. W.	Pte.	Cox, D. M.	Corp.
Cook, F. P.	Pte.	Copeman, W. A.	Pte.	Cox, E. G.	Pte.
Cook, F. W.	Pte.	Coppard, C. T.	Pte.	Cox, F.	Pte.
Cook, G.	Pte.	Coppard, T. H.	Pte.	Cox, F. H.	L./Corp.
Cook, G. H.	L./Corp.	Coppen, E. G.	Pte.	Cox, G.	A./Corp.
Cook, G. K.	Pte.	Coppick, C. G. E.	Pte.	Cox, G. W.	Pte.
Cook, H. A.	Pte.	Copus, W. H.	Pte.	Cox, W.	Pte.

Cox, W. (242399)	Pte.	Cross, W.	Pte.	Dack, C. E.	L./Corp.
Cox, W. F.	Pte.	Crouch, A. C. F.	Pte.	Dacre, W. R.	Pte.
Cox, W. G.	Pte.	Crouch, L. A.	Pte.	Daggett, G. E.	Pte.
Cox, W. T.	Pte.	Crouch, W. H. G.	Pte.	Daines, S.	Pte.
Cox, W. T. H.	Pte.	Croucher, A.	Pte.	Dale, S.	Pte.
Coxall, R.	Pte.	Crowhurst, W.	Pte.	Dale, S. (9558)	Pte.
Coxhill, A. H.	Pte.	Crowley, J.	Pte.	Daley, P.	Pte.
Coxhill, W. H.	Pte.	Crowther, G.	A./Sergt.	Dalglish, W. S.	Pte.
Coxon, S. J.	L./Corp.	Crozier, A.	Pte.	Dalliday, G.	Pte.
Coyne, J.	Pte.	Cruickshank, A.	Sergt.	Dallinger, J. R.	Pte.
Crabb, H. A.	L./Corp.	Crump, F. H.	Corp.	Dalton, C. R.	Pte.
Craddock, C. W.	Pte.	Crump, H.	Pte.	Dalton, G.	L./Corp.
Craddock, R.	Pte.	Crump, J.	Pte.	Dalton, T.	L./Corp.
Cragg, Z.	Corp.	Cruttenden, H.	Pte.	Dalton, T. E. P.	Pte.
Crampton, A. A.	Pte.	Cubitt, A.	Pte.	Daly, H.	Sergt.
Crampton, A. H.	Pte.	Cudd, J.	Pte.	Daly, J. T.	Pte.
Crane, A. B.	Pte.	Cuffin, G. R.	Pte.	Daly, W.	Pte.
Cranston, G.	L./Sergt.	Cullen, J. E.	Pte.	Daniel, A.	Pte.
Cranstone, A.	Pte.	Cullen, J. F. S., M.M.	Pte.	Daniel, W. G.	Pte.
Crash, W.	L./Corp.		Sergt.	Daniels, A. G.	L./Corp.
Crate, W. W.	Pte.	Cullen, W. L., M.M.		Daniels, F. H.	Pte.
Crawford, W.	Pte.		L./Corp.	Daniels, J. W.	Pte.
Crawley, G.	Pte.	Cullender, H.	Pte.	Daniels, R.	Pte.
Crayford, H. R.	Pte.	Cullinane, J.	Pte.	Daniels, W. J.	Pte.
Creasey, H.	Pte.	Cullip, J. W.	Pte.	D'Arbour, H. G.	Pte.
Creasey, W.	L./Corp.	Culver, A. S.	Pte.	Darby, W. G.	Pte.
Cressey, G. E.	Pte.	Culver, F. T.	L./Corp.	Darkins, C. R.	Pte.
Crewell, H. R.	Pte.	Culverhouse, A.	Pte.	Darlow, W.	Pte.
Crick, B.	Pte.	Cumbers, A.	Corp.	Darnell, J.	Pte.
Crick, C.	Pte.	Cumming, A. S.	L./Corp.	Darrington, R.	Pte.
Crick, G. A.	Corp.	Cummings, K. G.	Pte.	Darsey, G. A.	Pte.
Cripps, R.	Pte.	Cunningham, A.	Pte.	Dart, F.	Pte.
Cripps, W. T. A.	L./Corp.	Cunningham, R. L.	Pte.	Daston, W.	Pte.
Crisp, A. F.	Pte.	Cunningham, W. J.	Pte.	Daughtrey, R.	Pte.
Crocker, A. G.	Pte.	Curd, G. H.	Sergt.	Davey, A. E.	L./Corp.
Crocker, O.	Pte.	Currier, S. C.	Pte.	Davey, E.	Pte.
Crockett, H. H.	Pte.	Curry, T. W.	Pte.	Davey, J. J.	Pte.
Croft, G. J. V.	Pte.	Curtis, E. N.	Pte.	Davey, W. E. H.	Pte.
Croger, R. E.	Pte.	Curtis, D. R.	Pte.	Davies, F. G.	Pte.
Cronin, J.	Pte.	Curtis, G.	Pte.	Davies, F. L.	Pte.
Cronin, J. T.	Pte.	Curtis, L. J.	Pte.	Davies, G. H.	Pte.
Crook, C. A.	Pte.	Cuthbert, W. H.	Pte.	Davies, G. W.	Pte.
Crook, C. H.	Pte.	Cuthbertson, F. W.	Pte.	Davies, I. L.	Pte.
Crook, T. J.	L./Corp.	Cuthbertson, W.	Pte.	Davies, J.	Pte.
Crooks, A.	Sergt.	Cutmore, W. J.	L./Corp.	Davies, J. H.	Sergt.
Cropp, A.	Pte.	Cutt, E.	Pte.	Davies, J. J.	Pte.
Cross, A. L.	Pte.	Cutting, A.	Pte.	Davies, P. E.	Corp.
Cross, H.	Pte.	Cuttler, T. W.	Pte.	Davies, S.	Pte.
Cross, J. H.	Pte.	Cutts, J. W.	Pte.	Davies, W. H.	Pte.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 271

Davies, W. R.	L./Corp.	Dean, R. J.	Pte.	Dipples, A.	Pte.
Davis, A.	Pte.	Dearing, E.	Pte.	Disbrow, J. W. T.	Sergt.
Davis, A. V.	Pte.	Dearlove, A.	Pte.	Disher, A. A.	L./Sergt.
Davis, C.	Pte.	Dedman, C. H.	Pte.	Dixon, A.	A./C.S.M.
Davis, H. D.	Pte.	Dedman, F.	Pte.	Dixon, C. G.	L./Corp.
Davis, H. V. J.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dixon, J. A.	Pte.
Davis, H. W. M.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dixon, W. T.	Pte.
Davis, J. H.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dobson, W.	Pte.
Davis, L. H.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dobson, A. E.	L./Corp.
Davis, S.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dobson, W.	Pte.
Davis, T.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dockrell, R. E.	Pte.
Davis, T. A.	L./Corp.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Docwra, H. B.	Pte.
Davis, W. E.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Doe, H. J.	Pte.
Davis, W. J. G.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Doe, S.	Pte.
Davison, E. J.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Doel, F. J.	Pte.
Davison, J.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Doherty, J. M.	Sergt.
Dawes, A. J.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dole, A.	Sergt.
Dawes, F.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dole, H. E.	Sergt.
Dawes, H.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dollamore, W. E.	Pte.
Dawes, W.	Sergt.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dolwin, R.	Pte.
Dawson, H.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Donaldson, G., M.M.	Pte.
Dawson, W. A.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Donaldson, W. G.	Pte.
Dax, S. H.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Donnaby, T.	Pte.
Day, A.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Donnelly, J., D.C.M.	
Day, A. G.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.		Sergt.
Day, A. W. L.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Donnelly, A.	Pte.
Day, C.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Donnelly, T.	Pte.
Day, C. G.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Donoghue, E. D.	Pte.
Day, E.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Donovan, C.	L./Corp.
Day, G. H.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Donovan, M.	Pte.
Day, G. W.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Donovan, P.	Pte.
Day, H.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Donovan, W.	Pte.
Day, L. C.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dorking, C. V.	Corp.
Day, S. A.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dormer, G. E.	Pte.
Day, W.	A./Corp.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dorney, A. W.	Pte.
Day, W.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dorr, H.	Sergt.
Day, W. C.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Douch, W. A.	Pte.
Day, W. C. (17835)	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Doughty, F. R.	Pte.
Day, W. J.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Doughty, J.	Pte.
Dayman, A. J.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Doughty, R.	Pte.
Daynes, P. T.	A.L./Corp.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Douglas, H.	Pte.
Daysh, W.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Doulton, A. E. J.	Pte.
Deacon, W. T.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dove, J. W.	Pte.
Deadfield, L. E.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dove, P. W.	A./Corp.
Dean, C.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dow, R. M.	Pte.
Dean, F. C.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dowding, L.	Pte.
Dean, G.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Dowling, H.	Pte.
Dean, H. D.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Downer, F. C.	Pte.
Dean, H. F.	Pte.	Dee, R.	Pte.	Downey, C. R.	Pte.

Downing, H.	L./Corp.	Dunham, H. G.	Sergt.	Edgington, H., D.C.M.	
Downing, W.	Pte.	Dunkley, B.	Pte.		Pte.
Downs, B. C.	Pte.	Dunmow, C. L.	Pte.	Edington, F.	Pte.
Downs, W. W.	Pte.	Dunn, A. E.	L./Corp.	Edlin, W.	A./Sergt.
Dowsett, G. R.	Pte.	Dunn, J.	Pte.	Edmeads, G.	Pte.
Drage, B.	Corp.	Dunnett, D. A.	L./Corp.	Edmonds, A. G.	Pte.
Drake, F. G.	Pte.	Dunster, E. W.	Pte.	Edmonds, J.	Pte.
Drake, F. R.	Pte.	Durance, W.	Pte.	Edmondson, R. P. T.	Pte.
Drake, H.	Pte.	Durrant, F. E.	Pte.	Edmunds, E.	Pte.
Draper, W. F.	Pte.	Durrant, P. C.	Pte.	Edmunds, W. E.	Pte.
Draper, W. G.	Pte.	Durrant, W.	Pte.	Edwards, A.	Pte.
Drew, A. S.	Pte.	Durrell, E. R.	Sergt.	Edwards, A. D. J.	L./Corp.
Drewett, S.	Pte.	Dursley, J.	Pte.	Edwards, A. H.	
Drinkwater, J.	Pte.	Dutton, H. E.	Pte.		A./L./Corp.
Driscoll, J. P.	Pte.	Dutton, R. H.	Pte.	Edwards, A. J.	L./Corp.
Driver, M. A.	Pte.	Dwyer, E., V.C.	Corp.	Edwards, F.	Corp.
Driver, P. W.	Pte.	Dwyer, J.	C.S.M.	Edwards, F. H.	Pte.
Driver, T. H.	Pte.	Dye, S. F., M.M.	Pte.	Edwards, G.	Pte.
Drummond, W. G.	Pte.	Dye, W.	A./Sergt.	Edwards, G. A.	Pte.
Drury, H.	Pte.	Dyer, E. W.	Pte.	Edwards, G. E.	Pte.
Dry, G.	Pte.	Dyer, H. A.	Pte.	Edwards, G. H. A.	Pte.
Dry, G. E.	Sergt.	Dyett, T. C.	Corp.	Edwards, H.	Pte.
Dryden, A.	Corp.	Dyson, F. T.	Pte.	Edwards, J.	Pte.
Dubock, G. T.	L./Corp.	Dyson, J. A.	Pte.	Edwards, J. (34662)	Pte.
Duck, F. J.	Pte.			Edwards, L.	Pte.
Duckett, H. E.	Pte.	Eades, G. W.	Pte.	Edwards, R.	Pte.
Duckworth, J.	L./Corp.	Eagle, A.	Pte.	Edwards, T. W.	A./Corp.
Dudman, W. J.	Pte.	Eagle, J.	Pte.	Edwards, W.	Sergt.
Duffell, J.	Pte.	Eagling, A. W.	Pte.	Edwards, W. A.	Pte.
Duffield, A. G. R.	Corp.	Eames, W. C.	Pte.	Edwardson, B. E.	Pte.
Duffield, J.	Pte.	Earl, W.	Pte.	Edwicker, C. H.	Pte.
Duffield, J. H. P.	Pte.	Earthy, E. G.	Pte.	Eeles, B. J.	Pte.
Dugdale, J., D.C.M., M.M.		Eason, V. W.	Pte.	Egan, C.	Pte.
	Sergt.	Eastall, P. R.	Pte.	Elder, F. A.	Pte.
Duggin, J.	Pte.	Easter, T.	Pte.	Eldred, W. W.	L./Corp.
Dulien, A. W.	Pte.	Eastman, W., M.M.	Pte.	Eley, J.	Pte.
Duling, J.	Pte.	Eastop, W. E. A.	Pte.	Elford, F. W.	Pte.
Dumbleton, H. G., M.M.		Eaton, H. V.	Pte.	Elkin, P. G. A.	Pte.
	Pte.	Eaton, J.	Pte.	Elkins, A.	Sergt.
Duncan, J. D.	L./Corp.	Eaton, J. (9542)	Pte.	Ellicot, A.	Pte.
Duncombe, A. C.	Pte.	Ebden, H. M.	Pte.	Elliott, B. G.	Pte.
Duncombe, F.	Pte.	Eborall, H.	Pte.	Elliott, G.	Pte.
Duncombe, W.	Pte.	Ede, A.	Pte.	Elliott, O.	Pte.
Dundon, A.	Pte.	Ede, E. G.	Pte.	Elliott, S.	Pte.
Dundon, T.	Pte.	Ede, F. W.	A./L./Corp.	Elliott, T. P.	Pte.
Dunford, A. C.	Pte.	Edgar, J. T.	Pte.	Ellis, A.	Pte.
Dunford, C. E.	Pte.	Edge, J.	Pte.	Ellis, C.	Pte.
Dunford, W. G.	Pte.	Edge, N. V.	Pte.	Ellis, F.	Pte.
Dunget, E. M.	A./Sergt.	Edgington, A. F.	Pte.	Ellis, R. J.	Pte.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 273

Ellis, S.	Corp.	Evans, H.	Sergt.	Farrow, H. S.	Corp.
Ellis, W.	Corp.	Evans, H.	Pte.	Fathers, W. E.	Pte.
Ellis, W.	Pte.	Evans, H. (31230)	Pte.	Faulkner, F. L.	Pte.
Ellis, W. G. T.	Pte.	Evans, J.	L./Sergt.	Faulkner, W. E.	Pte.
Ellison, W. J.	Pte.	Evans, J.	Pte.	Fawdry, C. R.	Pte.
Ells, E.	Pte.	Evans, R. A.	Pte.	Feasey, E.	Pte.
Ellwood, R. G.	Pte.	Evans, R. D. K.	Pte.	Feast, F.	Pte.
Ellwood, T.	Pte.	Evans, T.	Pte.	Feest, G. P.	Pte.
Ellwood, W.	Pte.	Evans, W.	Corp.	Fellows, F. J.	Pte.
Elmer, P. W.	Pte.	Evans, W. H.	Pte.	Felton, A. W.	L./Sergt.
Elsby, W. T.	Pte.	Evans, W. H. (11693)	Pte.	Felton, W. L.	Pte.
Elsdon, A. S.	L./Corp.	Eve, W.	Pte.	Fenemore, J. A.	Pte.
Elsey, A. W.	Pte.	Evelin, E. M. R.	Pte.	Fenn, C. H.	Pte.
Elsey, S. W.	Pte.	Eveling, A. G.	Pte.	Fenn, G. W.	Pte.
Elson, C. W. J.	Pte.	Everest, A. E.	Pte.	Fennell, T.	Pte.
Elson, W.	Pte.	Everest, A. E. (5420)	Pte.	Fenwick, G.	Sergt.
Elston, W. H.	L./Corp.	Everett, F.	Pte.	Ferguson, H.	Pte.
Elverson, J.	Pte.	Everett, G. T.	Pte.	Fergusson, C. J.	Pte.
Elwick, G. W.	Pte.	Everett, H. S.	Pte.	Ferrar, J.	Pte.
Elworthy, W. H.	Pte.	Everitt, E.	Pte.	Ferrett, F.	Pte.
Ely, F.	Pte.	Eversden, W.	Pte.	Ferrick, P.	Pte.
Ely, W. E.	Corp.	Eves, G.	Pte.	Ferry, E.	Pte.
Emery, A. E.	Pte.	Ewings, S. J.	Pte.	Fewell, G. L.	Pte.
Emms, A. W.	Pte.	Eyles, B.	Pte.	Fewtrill, A.	Pte.
Emms, J.	L./Corp.	Eynott, C. H.	C.S.M.	Fibbens, G.	Pte.
Emms, J. F.	Pte.	Eyre, H.	Sergt.	Field, A.	Pte.
Empson, S.	Pte.			Field, C. A.	Pte.
Enever, G. A.	Pte.	Faber, C.	Pte.	Field, C. W.	Sergt.
Enever, T.	Pte.	Faiers, H. G.	Pte.	Field, D.	Corp.
England, C.	Pte.	Fairbairn, G.	Pte.	Field, F. C.	Pte.
England, W. G.	Pte.	Fairbrass, A. W.	Pte.	Field, J.	Pte.
Englefield, W. G.	Pte.	Fairbrass, G. T.	Pte.	Field, S.	Pte.
Engley, K.	Pte.	Fairman, J. A.	Pte.	Fieldgate, W.	Pte.
Enington, A. E.	Pte.	Fairman, J. H.	Pte.	Fields, R. S.	Pte.
Entwistle, C. A.	Pte.	Fairminer, T.	Pte.	Filce, A.	Pte.
Entwistle, F. A.	Pte.	Fairs, E. S.	L./Corp.	Fillmore, H. S.	Pte.
Epps, H. C.	Pte.	Fairs, W.	Sergt.	Finch, C.	Pte.
Essen, J.	Pte.	Faith, A. T.	Pte.	Finch, F.	Pte.
Essex, H. J.	A./Sergt.	Falconer, A.	Pte.	Finch, J. T.	A./Corp.
Essom, H. W.	Pte.	Falkner, J. E. C.	Pte.	Finch, L. J. G.	Pte.
Etheridge, A.	Pte.	Fane, D.	Pte.	Finch, W. E.	L./Sergt.
Etheridge, W. G.	Pte.	Farley, F.	Pte.	Findlay, J.	Pte.
Etherington, W. J.	Pte.	Farley, P.	Sergt.	Finedon, H. J.	Pte.
Evans, A.	Pte.	Farmborough, A.	Pte.	Finer, A. J.	Pte.
Evans, A. (2774)	Pte.	Farmer, A. G. C.	Sergt.	Finn, E. T.	Pte.
Evans, E.	Pte.	Farmer, F. C.	A./Sergt.	Finney, J. J.	Pte.
Evans, E. D.	Pte.	Farnborough, H.	Pte.	Finnigan, W. G.	Pte.
Evans, F. H.	Pte.	Farren, G.	C.Q.M.S.	Finnis, C., M.M.	Pte.
Evans, G. E.	Pte.	Farrence, R. C.	Pte.	Firmin, C.	Pte.

Fishburn, E.	Pte.	Forder, G.	Pte.	Franks, S.	Pte.
Fisher, A.	Pte.	Foreman, C. H.	Sergt.	Franks, S. G.	Sergt.
Fisher, C.	Pte.	Foreman, F.	Pte.	Freeland, A. J. H.	Pte.
Fisher, E. J.	Pte.	Formby, R.	Pte.	Freeland, W.	Pte.
Fisher, H. F.	Pte.	Forrest, T. W.	Pte.	Freeman, C. R.	Sergt.
Fisher, R. T.	Pte.	Forster, A.	Pte.	Freeman, C. W.	Pte.
Fisher, S.	Pte.	Forster, F. J.	Pte.	Freeman, H. H.	Pte.
Fisher, T.	Pte.	Forster, R. J.	Pte.	Freeman, W.	Pte.
Fisher, W. R.	Pte.	Forster, T. A.	Pte.	French, A.	Pte.
Fisher, W. S.	Pte.	Forster, W. H.	Sergt.	French, A. W.	Pte.
Fisk, W. J.	Pte.	Forward, G. T.	Pte.	French, J. W.	Pte.
Fitch, A.	Pte.	Foster, A. F.	Pte.	French, W. R.	L./Corp.
Fitch, G.	L./Corp.	Foster, C. J.	A./Sergt.	Fribbins, A. G.	Pte.
Fitchett, S. J.	Pte.	Foster, C. T. G.	Pte.	Friday, E.	Corp.
Fitzgerald, J. E.	Pte.	Foster, E.	Pte.	Friday, J. F.	Pte.
FitzJohn E. A., M.M.	Pte.	Foster, E. H.	Pte.	Friel, J.	Pte.
Flannagan, J.	Pte.	Foster, E. J.	L./Corp.	Frith, F. H.	Pte.
Fletcher, E. J.	Pte.	Foster, F. A.	Pte.	Frith, F. H. (3354)	Pte.
Fletcher, P. G.	Pte.	Foster, G.	L./Sergt.	Frith, J.	Pte.
Fletcher, S. G., M.M.		Foster, G.	Pte.	Frith, W. E.	Pte.
	Sergt.	Foucher, F. J.	Pte.	Frith, W. J.	Pte.
Flexman, A. J.	Pte.	Foulger, W. A.	Pte.	Fromow, E. F.	Pte.
Flint, F. J.	Pte.	Foulger, W. C.	Pte.	Froome, A.	Pte.
Florey, H.	Pte.	Foulkes, C. C.	Pte.	Frost, E.	Pte.
Flowerday, P.	Pte.	Fountain, C.	Pte.	Frost, H.	Pte.
Flowerday, W. J.	L./Corp.	Fovargue, W. H.	Pte.	Frost, H. C. P.	Pte.
Flowers, L. A.	L./Corp.	Fowler, C.	Corp.	Frost, J. A. W.	Pte.
Flude, F.	Pte.	Fowler, G. S.	Pte.	Frost, W.	Pte.
Flynn, C. W.	Sergt.	Fowler, S.	L./Corp.	Frowley, C., M.M.	Pte.
Flynn, D. J.	Pte.	Fowler, T.	L./Sergt.	Fry, H. W. G.	Pte.
Flynn, E., M.M.	Sergt.	Fowler, W. F.	Pte.	Fullard, F. J.	Pte.
Foley, F. G. W.	Pte.	Fox, A.	Pte.	Fuller, G. H.	Pte.
Foley, J. P.	Pte.	Fox, A. (11957)	Pte.	Fuller, H. J.	Pte.
Folly, G.	Pte.	Fox, A. R.	L./Corp.	Fuller, J.	L./Sergt.
Fookes, E. B.	Pte.	Fox, H.	Pte.	Fuller, J., M.M.	L./Corp.
Fookes, W. C. N.	Pte.	Fox, H. J. F.	Pte.	Fuller, J.	Pte.
Foord, W.	Pte.	Fox, J. F.	Pte.	Fullex, A. E.	Pte.
Foot, W. D.	Sergt.	Fox, R. W.	Pte.	Fulton, J.	Pte.
Foot, C. H.	Pte.	Fox, W. E.	Pte.	Fundell, F. T.	Pte.
Footer, G.	Pte.	Foy, F.	Pte.	Furmidge, J. H.	Pte.
Ford, C. J.	L./Corp.	Francis, A. E.	Pte.	Furr, W. J.	Pte.
Ford, F. E., M.M.		Francis, E. D.	L./Corp.	Fursey, E.	Pte.
	L./Corp.	Francis, G.	Pte.		
Ford, G.	Pte.	Francis, H.	Pte.	Gadd, J.	Pte.
Ford, G. (7615)	Pte.	Franklin, C. E.	Pte.	Gage, W. B.	Pte.
Ford, J.	Pte.	Franklin, F.	Pte.	Gaiger, C. J.	Pte.
Ford, J. H.	Sergt.	Franklin, H. W.	Pte.	Gaisford, F. G.	Pte.
Ford, J. J.	Pte.	Franklin, L. T.	Pte.	Gale, F.	Pte.
Ford, J. W. H.	Pte.	Franklin, W. T.	Pte.	Gale, F. (23107)	Pte.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 275

Gale, R.	A./Sergt.	Gaynham, R. E.	Sergt.	Giles, J., M.M.	Sergt.
Gale, S.	Pte.	Gazeley, W.	L./Corp.	Giles, J.	L./Corp.
Gale, T.	Pte.	Geal, H. H.	Pte.	Giles, T.	Pte.
Gallagher, J.	Pte.	Gearan, D.	Sergt.	Gill, A. E.	Pte.
Galyer, R.	Pte.	Geary, H.	Pte.	Gill, F. W.	L./Corp.
Game, A. E., M.M.		Geary, H. A.	Pte.	Gillam, A. E.	Pte.
	Corp.	Gee, T.	Pte.	Gillam, F.	Pte.
Game, H. C.	Pte.	Gee, W. W.	Pte.	Gilligan, P.	Pte.
Gander, C.	Pte.	Geen, C.	Pte.	Gillman, R. J.	Corp.
Gandley, W. A.	Pte.	Gegan, C. N.	Pte.	Gilmour, C.	Pte.
Gannon, A.	Pte.	Gennery, E.	Pte.	Gilson, A.	Pte.
Gant, J.	Pte.	Gennery, S. F.	Pte.	Gilson, A. G.	Pte.
Gapper, W. J.	Pte.	Gent, A. H.	Pte.	Ginn, J.	Pte.
Gardiner, A. G.	Pte.	Gentry, E. G.	L./Corp.	Girling, C. S. C.	Pte.
Gardiner, J.	L./Corp.	George, A. J.	Pte.	Gitsham, H.	Pte.
Gardiner, J. C.	L./Corp.	George, F. T.	Pte.	Gittens, A.	L./Corp.
Gardiner, L. A.	Sergt.	George, H. S.	Pte.	Gladden, F.	Pte.
Gardiner, W.	Pte.	George, J., M.M.	Pte.	Gladwin, C. R.	Pte.
Gardiner, W. (4956)	Pte.	George, J. A.	Pte.	Glasscoe, S. L.	L./Corp.
Gardner, H.	Pte.	Gerrard, H. J. (31901)		Glasse, W.	Pte.
Gardner, J.	Pte.		Pte.	Glazebrook, L. C.	Pte.
Gardner, J. H.	Pte.	Gerrish, T. C.	Sergt.	Glenister, J.	Pte.
Garland, J.	Pte.	Gibbard, W.	Pte.	Glover, R.	Pte.
Garleb, L. A. B.	Pte.	Gibbings, B. A.	Pte.	Goatcher, A. P.	Pte.
Garlick, G. E.	Pte.	Gibbons, A.	Pte.	Goby, H.	L./Corp.
Garman, P.	Pte.	Gibbons, C.	Pte.	Goby, W.	L./Corp.
Garn, G.	Pte.	Gibbons, H. J.	Pte.	Godbold, F.	Pte.
Garner, A. E.	Pte.	Gibbons, W.	Pte.	Goddard, A. E.	Pte.
Garner, W. H.	Pte.	Gibbs, H. C.	Pte.	Goddard, C.	Pte.
Garrard, A.	A./Corp.	Gibson, C. W.	Pte.	Goddard, D.	Pte.
Garrard, J. P.	Pte.	Gibson, J.	Pte.	Goddard, F.	Pte.
Garrard, W. C.	Pte.	Gibson, M.	Pte.	Goddard, G.	Pte.
Garratt, J.	Pte.	Gibson, S.	Pte.	Goddard, T.	Pte.
Garrett, F.	Pte.	Gibson, T. G.	Pte.	Goddard, T. (48293)	Pte.
Garrett, R. F.	Pte.	Gibson, T. J.	Pte.	Godden, P.	Pte.
Garton, N. L.	Pte.	Gibson, W. H.	Pte.	Godfree, A. E.	Pte.
Garwood, D. E.	Pte.	Gidden, T.	Pte.	Godfrey, A.	Pte.
Garwood, E. F. W.	Pte.	Giddings, E. J.	Pte.	Godfrey, E. M.	Pte.
Gascoigne, A.	Pte.	Gilbert, F.	A./Sergt.	Godfrey, F.	L./Corp.
Gates, H.	Pte.	Gilbert, F. (8957)	Sergt.	Godfrey, F.	Pte.
Gates, H. J.	Pte.	Gilbert, H. J.	Pte.	Godfrey, G. H.	Pte.
Gates, T.	Pte.	Gilbert, J.	Pte.	Godfrey, H. H.	Pte.
Gates, W. H.	Pte.	Gilbert, J. C.	Pte.	Godfrey, J. W.	C./Sergt.
Gatford, T. W.	Pte.	Gilbert, J. W.	Pte.	Godfrey, T.	Pte.
Gatland, A. E.	Pte.	Gilbert, P. A.	Pte.	Godley, C. A.	Pte.
Gatty, G.	Pte.	Gilbert, T.	Pte.	Godley, L.	Pte.
Gaunt, F. W.	Pte.	Gilbert, W. G.	A./Corp.	Godley, R. H.	L./Sergt.
Gauntlett, F.	Corp.	Gilbert, W. H.	Pte.	Golden, E. W.	Pte.
Gay, T. H.	Pte.	Giles, A. G.	Pte.	Golder, H. A.	Pte.

Golding, G.	Pte.	Grace, J. H.	Pte.	Greenaway, S. G. N.	Pte.
Goldsack, S. E.	Pte.	Gradwick, L. J.	Pte.	Greenbrook, J. J.	Pte.
Goldsbrough, J. R.	Pte.	Grady, H.	Pte.	Greenfield, C. F.	Pte.
Goldsmith, V.	Pte.	Graham, A.	Pte.	Greenfield, H.	Pte.
Goll, J. W.	Pte.	Graham, G. W.	Pte.	Greenfield, R. W.	Pte.
Golumber, F.	Pte.	Grainge, H. L.	Pte.	Greenhalgh, H.	Pte.
Gondrill, C.	Pte.	Grainger, R.	Pte.	Greenstock, H. F.	Pte.
Gooch, W.	Pte.	Grant, G.	L./Corp.	Greenway, A. H.	Pte.
Good, F. W.	Pte.	Grant, H. B.	Pte.	Greenwood, R. C.	Pte.
Goodacre, E.	Pte.	Grant, V. G.	Pte.	Gregory, A.	Corp.
Goodchild, C. A.	L./Corp.	Grant, W.	Corp.	Gregory, F. A.	Pte.
Goode, A. G.	Pte.	Grant, W.	Pte.	Gregory, H.	Pte.
Goode, A. J.	Pte.	Graves, D. H.	Corp.	Gregory, W.	Pte.
Goodman, A.	Pte.	Gravestock, H.	Pte.	Grenway, L. H.	Pte.
Goodman, A. (14869)	Pte.	Gray, A. G.	Pte.	Gresty, W.	Pte.
Goodship, S. W.	Pte.	Gray, E.	Pte.	Greygoose, L. E.	Pte.
Goodwin, G. M.	Pte.	Gray, E. W.	Pte.	Gridley, C.	Pte.
Goodwin, H. W.	L./Corp.	Gray, F. W. J.	Pte.	Gridley, H. A.	Pte.
Goodwin, S. G.	Pte.	Gray, G. J.	Pte.	Griffiths, A.	Pte.
Goodwin, T.	Pte.	Gray, H. C.	Pte.	Griffiths, C.	Pte.
Goodwright, F.	Pte.	Gray, H. L.	A./Corp.	Griffiths, E.	Pte.
Goodyear, J.	Pte.	Gray, H. T.	Pte.	Griffiths, E. G.	Pte.
Gordon, C.	Pte.	Gray, J.	L./Corp.	Griffiths, W. A.	Pte.
Gordon, R.	Pte.	Gray, J. W.	Pte.	Grigg, S.	Pte.
Gore, A. C.	L./Corp.	Gray, W. E.	Pte.	Grigg, W. H.	Pte.
Gore, T.	Pte.	Grayland, J.	Pte.	Griggs, A.	Pte.
Gorman, T.	L./Corp.	Greaney, A.	Pte.	Griggs, B.	Corp.
Gosby, A.	Pte.	Greatwood, G. H.	Pte.	Griggs, C. W.	Pte.
Gosden, W.	Pte.	Greaves, S.	Pte.	Griggs, P., D.C.M.	Sergt.
Goslin, H.	Pte.	Green, A.	Pte.	Griggs, R.	Pte.
Gosling, E.	Pte.	Green, A. (28635)	Pte.	Grigsby, A.	Pte.
Gosling, H. A.	Pte.	Green, A. W.	Pte.	Grimshaw, F.	Pte.
Gosnell, A. J.	Pte.	Green, C. F.	Pte.	Grimshaw, J. F.	Pte.
Goss, W. A.	Pte.	Green, C. G.	Pte.	Grimwood, J.	Pte.
Gough, F. W.	Pte.	Green, F. E.	Pte.	Grindey, J.	Pte.
Gough, H. W.	Pte.	Green, G. H.	Pte.	Gristey, G. W.	Pte.
Gough, W.	Corp.	Green, G. T.	Pte.	Grogan, C. J.	L./Corp.
Gould, A.	Pte.	Green, H.	Pte.	Groom, C. J.	Pte.
Gould, G.	Pte.	Green, H. J.	Pte.	Groombridge, J. T.	Sergt.
Gould, G. H.	Pte.	Green, H. T.	Pte.	Grossmith, L., M.M.	L./Corp.
Gould, J.	Pte.	Green, J.	Pte.	Grove, E.	Sergt.
Gould, J. R.	Pte.	Green, L.	Pte.	Grove, R. H.	Pte.
Gould, P. J.	Sergt.	Green, R.	Pte.	Groves, E. S.	Pte.
Goulding, T.	L./Corp.	Green, W.	Pte.	Groves, W. R. T.	Pte.
Goulds, A.	Pte.	Green, W. (5442)	Pte.	Gudge, A.	Pte.
Gourley, J.	Pte.	Green, W. (29336)	Pte.	Guest, A.	Pte.
Govier, B. E.	Pte.	Green, W. (34675)	Pte.		
Govier, G.	Pte.	Green, W. (36190)	Pte.		
Gowers, T.	A./Sergt.	Green, W. G.	Pte.		

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 277

Guildford, W.	Pte.	Hall, J.	Pte.	Hann, F.	Sergt.
Guilford, W. H.	Pte.	Hall, J. E.	L./Corp.	Hann, G. H.	Pte.
Gumpert, M. C. V.	Pte.	Hall, J. H.	Pte.	Hann, H.	Sergt.
Gunn, G. L.	Pte.	Hall, J. J.	Pte.	Hann, J. C.	Pte.
Gunn, R. G.	Pte.	Hall, P. C.	Pte.	Hanscombe, H.	Pte.
Gunnnett, E. R.	Pte.	Hall, T.	Corp.	Hanson, W.	Pte.
Gunthorp, W.	Pte.	Hall, W. G.	Pte.	Hanson, W. C.	Pte.
Gurnham, H.	Sergt.	Hallett, A. W.	Pte.	Hanwell, A. V.	Pte.
Gurr, J.	Pte.	Halley, A. J.	Pte.	Harber, F. D.	Pte.
Guy, E. A.	Pte.	Halliday, F., M.M.	Corp.	Harbour, H. J.	Pte.
Guy, H.	Pte.	Halsey, F. J.	Pte.	Harbour, S.	Pte.
Guy, J. S.	Pte.	Halstead, R. A.	Pte.	Hardiker, J.	Pte.
Guy, R.	L./Corp.	Hambleton, E.	Sergt.	Harding, E.	Pte.
Guy, T. E.	Pte.	Hambrook, T. J.	Pte.	Harding, T.	Pte.
Gwynn, R. A.	Pte.	Hamlett, A. C.	Pte.	Hardingham, C. E.	Pte.
		Hamlett, C.	Pte.	Hardingham, d'A	Pte.
Hack, H. J.	Pte.	Hammett, J.	Pte.	Hardman, H., M.M.	Pte.
Hackett, H. G. A./L./Corp.		Hammond, A.	Pte.	Hardy, G.	Pte.
Haddock, C.	Pte.	Hammond, A. E.	Pte.	Hardy, G. A.	Pte.
Haddock, W.	L./Corp.	Hammond, C. N.	Pte.	Hardy, W. C.	Pte.
Haddon, J.	Pte.	Hammond, E.	Pte.	Hare, R.	Pte.
Hagan, J.	Pte.	Hammond, G., M.M.		Harffy, C. W.	Pte.
Haggett, C. H.	Pte.		C.S.M.	Hargraves, F. S.	Sergt.
Haggis, G. F.	Pte.	Hammond, H. H.	Pte.	Harman, E. J.	Pte.
Hahn, C. F.	Pte.	Hammond, J. C.	Pte.	Harman, J.	Pte.
Hailes, E.	Pte.	Hammond, J. E.	Pte.	Harman, R. J.	Pte.
Haines, C. J.	Sergt.	Hammond, J. R.	Pte.	Harmer, S. C.	Pte.
Hairs, M. S. T.	Pte.	Hammond, J. W.	Pte.	Harper, A. E.	Pte.
Haisman, G.	Pte.	Hammond, L.	Pte.	Harper, T.	Pte.
Hale, W.	L./Corp.	Hammond, W.	Pte.	Harrington, D.	Pte.
Haley, A.	Corp.	Hammond, W. C.		Harris, A. C.	Pte.
Haley, G.	Pte.		L./Corp.	Harris, B.	Pte.
Haley, J. W.	Pte.	Hammond, W. F.	Pte.	Harris, C. F.	Pte.
Hall, A. C.	Pte.	Hammond, W. T.	Pte.	Harris, C. T.	Corp.
Hall, C.	Pte.	Hampton, A. L.	Pte.	Harris, E. R.	Pte.
Hall, C. (9737)	Pte.	Hancock, C.	Pte.	Harris, F.	Pte.
Hall, C. (14476)	Pte.	Hancock, E.	Pte.	Harris, F. (11254)	Pte.
Hall, E.	Pte.	Hancock, G. T.	Pte.	Harris, G.	Pte.
Hall, E. F.	Pte.	Hancock, L. H.	Pte.	Harris, G. W.	Pte.
Hall, E. R.	Corp.	Hancock, T. C.	Pte.	Harris, H.	Pte.
Hall, E. W.	Pte.	Hancock, W.	Pte.	Harris, H. G.	Corp.
Hall, F. A.	Pte.	Handel, C. F.	Pte.	Harris, J.	Pte.
Hall, F. G.	Pte.	Handley, G.	L./Sergt.	Harris, J. C.	Sergt.
Hall, H. G.	Pte.	Hands, F.	Pte.	Harris, J. R.	Pte.
Hall, G. H.	A./Corp.	Hands, H. A.	Pte.	Harris, M. M.	Pte.
Hall, G. H. (9677)	Pte.	Hanger, E. G.	Pte.	Harris, N.	Pte.
Hall, H.	Pte.	Hankins, T. W.	Corp.	Harris, T., M.M.	
Hall, H. (9046)	Pte.	Hanks, E.	Pte.		L./Sergt.
Hall, H. J.	Pte.	Hanlin, E.	Pte.	Harris, W. L.	Pte.

Harris, W. R.	Pte.	Hatton, A. E.	Pte.	Hedges, S. A.	Pte.
Harrison, C. W.	Pte.	Hatton, A. T.	Pte.	Hedges, S. W.	A./Sergt.
Harrison, J. D.	L./Corp.	Hatton, G.	Pte.	Helm, J.	Pte.
Harrison, L. A.	Sergt.	Hawes, G.	Pte.	Hembrough, E.	Pte.
Harrison, M. W.	Pte.	Hawes, W. E.	Pte.	Hemmings, J.	Pte.
Harrison, R. J.	Pte.	Hawker, S.	Pte.	Hemmings, J. A. J.	L./Corp.
Harrison, S.	Pte.	Hawkes, F. H.	Pte.	Hemmings, W., D.C.M.	C.S.M.
Harrison, T.	Pte.	Hawkins, A.	Pte.	Hemmings, W. J.	L./Sergt.
Harriss, A.	Pte.	Hawkins, C. T.	Pte.	Henley, F. W. T.	Sergt.
Harston, F. G.	Pte.	Hawkins, R. A.	Pte.	Hennessey, J.	Pte.
Hart, C. T.	Pte.	Hawkins, R. J.	Pte.	Henry, T.	Pte.
Hart, E.	Pte.	Hawkwood, A.	Pte.	Herbert, A. E.	Sergt.
Hart, F. G.	Pte.	Hawley, J.	Pte.	Herbert, A. E.	Pte.
Hart, H.	Pte.	Hay, J.	Pte.	Herbert, T.	Pte.
Hart, H. (48027)	Pte.	Hayes, A.	L./Corp.	Herbert, W.	L./Corp.
Hart, H. R.	Pte.	Hayes, A. C.	Pte.	Herbing, R. F.	Pte.
Hart, S. L.	Pte.	Hayes, C. E.	Pte.	Hernage, H. E.	Pte.
Hart, W.	Pte.	Hayes, E.	Pte.	Herring, T. J.	Pte.
Hart, W. (2800)	Pte.	Hayes, G. A.	Pte.	Hesmer, T. W.	Pte.
Hartland, W.	Pte.	Hayes, J.	Sergt.	Hewett, G.	Sergt.
Hartley, R.	Pte.	Hayes, J.	Pte.	Hewitson, T.	Pte.
Hartley, W.	Pte.	Hayes, J. (8615)	Pte.	Hewitt, A. T.	Pte.
Hartley, W. J.	Pte.	Hayes, J. H.	Pte.	Hewitt, C.	Pte.
Hartopp, W. H.	Pte.	Haynes, F.	Pte.	Hewitt, J. W.	L./Sergt.
Hartwell, J. A.	Pte.	Haynes, F. R.	Pte.	Hewitt, P.	Pte.
Harvey, A. E.	Pte.	Haysom, A. H.	Pte.	Hewlett, F.	Pte.
Harvey, B.	Pte.	Hayward, C.	Pte.	Heyes, J., M.M.	L./Corp.
Harvey, C.	Pte.	Hayward, F. G.	Pte.	Heym, E. F.	Pte.
Harvey, F. W.	L./Sergt.	Haywood, J.	L./Corp.	Hibbins, F.	Pte.
Harvey, H.	Pte.	Hazell, W.	Pte.	Hickey, D.	Pte.
Harvey, J.	Pte.	Hazelwood, W.	Pte.	Hicks, A.	Pte.
Harvey, J. (29378)	Pte.	Head, H. J.	Corp.	Hicks, E. T.	Pte.
Harvey, P.	Pte.	Head, J.	Pte.	Hicks, W.	Pte.
Harvey, W. C.	Pte.	Head, W.	Pte.	Hicks, W. R.	L./Corp.
Harvie, C. W.	Pte.	Heading, H. R.	Pte.	Hider, H.	Pte.
Hasher, H. J.	L./Corp.	Heald, E.	Pte.	Hider, W.	Pte.
Haslam, G.	Pte.	Healey, J. M.	Pte.	Higgins, D. H.	L./Corp.
Hasler, A.	Pte.	Healy, A. E.	Pte.	Higgins, H.	L./Corp.
Hasler, L.	Pte.	Heard, E. H.	L./Corp.	Highfield, J. G.	Pte.
Hassett, M.	Pte.	Hearne, A. J.	Pte.	Higton, W. A.	Pte.
Hastings, A.	Pte.	Heath, F.	Pte.	Hilborn, E.	Corp.
Hatchard, A. E.	Pte.	Heath, G. M.	Pte.	Hilder, H., M.M.	L./Corp.
Hatcher, J.	L./Corp.	Heath, J.	Pte.	Hildreth, H.	Pte.
Hatcher, J. E.	Sergt.	Heath, J. (6327)	Pte.	Hill, A.	Pte.
Hatcher, J. T.	Sergt.	Heathcock, A.	Pte.	Hill, A. S.	Pte.
Hatcher, W. H.	Pte.	Heather, H.	Pte.		
Hatherall, A. E.	Sergt.	Heather, L.	Pte.		
Hatswell, F.	L./Corp.	Heathfield, G.	Corp.		
Hatter, F.	Pte.	Hebbourne, E. H.	Pte.		

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 279

Hill, E. G.	Pte.	Hitchings, F. W.	Pte.	Holmes, A.	Pte.
Hill, F.	Pte.	Hoadley, W.	Pte.	Holmes, C.	Pte.
Hill, F. W.	Pte.	Hoare, A. H.	L./Corp.	Holmes, C. G.	Pte.
Hill, G.	A./L./Corp.	Hoare, E.	Pte.	Holmes, J. G.	Corp.
Hill, G. (508)	Pte.	Hoare, H.	Pte.	Holmes, J. J.	Pte.
Hill, G. F.	Pte.	Hoare, J., M.M.	Corp.	Holmes, L.	Pte.
Hill, H.	L./Sergt.	Hoare, J.	Pte.	Holt, A.	Pte.
Hill, H. G.	Sergt.	Hobbs, G.	Pte.	Holt, C. H.	Pte.
Hill, P. H.	Pte.	Hobbs, H. F. S.	Sergt.	Holt, H.	Pte.
Hill, R. F.	Pte.	Hobbs, W. H.	L./Corp.	Holt, J. A.	Pte.
Hill, R. H.	Pte.	Hobden, R.	Pte.	Holt, W.	Pte.
Hill, T.	L./Sergt.	Hobson, J. W.	Bdm.	Holton, D. S.	Pte.
Hill, T.	Pte.	Hockin, A. V.	Pte.	Honey, B.	Pte.
Hill, W. A.	Pte.	Hockley, S.	Sergt.	Honeyball, C. B.	Pte.
Hill, W. F.	Pte.	Hockley, S.	Pte.	Hood, H.	Pte.
Hill, W. G.	Pte.	Hodges, C. F.	L./Corp.	Hook, E. T.	Corp.
Hill, W. J.	Pte.	Hodges, F.	Pte.	Hook, H.	Pte.
Hill, W. L.	Pte.	Hodgin, M.	Corp.	Hook, O.	Corp.
Hill, W. W.	Pte.	Hodgins, H. J.	Pte.	Hooker, A. C.	Pte.
Hillard, A.	Pte.	Hoffman, P.	Pte.	Hooker, E. H.	Pte.
Hillard, F.	Pte.	Hogan, W.	Pte.	Hooker, J. F. J.	Pte.
Hillery, R. J.	Pte.	Hogger, P.	Pte.	Hooker, S.	Pte.
Hillier, E. C.	Pte.	Holbey, G. H.	Pte.	Hookins, A. H.	Pte.
Hillman, S. D.	Pte.	Holbrook, F. J.	Pte.	Hookey, A. S.	Pte.
Hillman, W. J.	Pte.	Holden, H.	Pte.	Hooper, E. E.	Pte.
Hills, A.	Pte.	Holden, R. E.	Pte.	Hooper, G. A.	Pte.
Hills, C.	Pte.	Holder, F. T.	Corp.	Hooper, S.	Pte.
Hills, J. W.	Pte.	Holder, H.	Pte.	Hope, C. H.	Pte.
Hills, W.	Corp.	Holderness, E.	Pte.	Hope, F. S.	Pte.
Hillsdon, T.	Pte.	Holland, A.	Pte.	Hope, L.	Pte.
Hilson, F.	A./Sergt.	Holland, E. A.	Pte.	Hope, T.	Pte.
Hilton, A. E.	Pte.	Holland, H.	Pte.	Hopkins, A. J.	Pte.
Hilton, A. W.	Pte.	Holland, H. E., M.M.		Hopkins, C. F.	Pte.
Hilton, W. G.	Pte.		C.Q.M.S.	Hopkins, C. H.	Pte.
Hinchcliffe, G.	Pte.	Holland, J.	L./Corp.	Hopkins, J.	Pte.
Hinde, R.	A./Sergt.	Holland, S. H.	Pte.	Hopkins, J. F.	Pte.
Hindle, H.	L./Corp.	Hollands, S.	Sergt.	Hopkins, J. G.	Pte.
Hindley, C. W.	Pte.	Hollingdale, A. E.		Hopkins, J. W.	Pte.
Hine, F.	L./Corp.		A./Corp.	Hopper, G.	Sergt.
Hines, A.	Pte.	Hollingshead, F.	Pte.	Hopwood, C. G.	Pte.
Hines, A. E.	Sergt.	Hollingsworth, H.	Pte.	Horgan, J.	L./Corp.
Hinkley, E. J.	Pte.	Hollington, C. H.	Pte.	Horlock, A.	L./Corp.
Hinton, R. H.	Pte.	Hollins, H. J.	A./Sergt.	Horn, F.	Pte.
Histed, F.	Pte.	Hollister, C.	Corp.	Horn, G. G.	Pte.
Hitchcock, C.	Pte.	Holloway, C.	Pte.	Hornabrook, R. K.	
Hitchcock, H.	Pte.	Holloway, C. A.	Pte.		L./Corp.
Hitchcock, W. G.		Holloway, G.	Pte.	Horner, G. H.	Corp.
	L./Sergt.	Holloway, T.	Pte.	Hornett, W. R.	Pte.
Hitchen, R.	Pte.	Holman, H. R.	Pte.	Hornsby, G.	Sergt.

Hornzee, F.	Pte.	Hughes, W. B.	Pte.	Hurst, S. H.	Pte.
Horrex, H. A.	Pte.	Hulcoop, W. J.	Pte.	Hurwitz, L.	Pte.
Horsley, A.	Pte.	Hulks, P.	Pte.	Hussey, F. A.	Pte.
Horsley, J. F.	Pte.	Hull, A. E.	Pte.	Hutchen, S. S.	Corp.
Horsley, W.	Corp.	Hull, J. F.	Pte.	Hutchings, D. G.	Pte.
Horton, C.	Pte.	Hulls, F.	Pte.	Hutchinson, J.	L./Corp.
Horton, F. T.	L./Sergt.	Hulse, H.	Pte.	Hutchison, G.	Pte.
Horton, J.	Pte.	Humberstone, W. W.	Pte.	Hutson, F.	Pte.
Hoskin, H. C.	Pte.	Humbles, B.	Pte.	Hutton, P.	Pte.
Hosking, F. W. N.	Pte.	Humby, F. W.	Pte.	Huxstep, W. L.	Pte.
Hoskins, H.	Pte.	Humphrey, A.	Pte.	Hyam, T. J.	Pte.
Hoskins, J.	Pte.	Humphrey, A. (14189)	Pte.	Hyam, W. C.	Pte.
Hoskins, S.	Pte.	Humphrey, A. W.	Pte.	Hybart, J.	Pte.
Hotston, S.	Pte.	Humphrey, F. C.	Pte.	Hyde, T. F. A.	Pte.
Hough, V.	Pte.	Humphrey, H. C.	Pte.	Hyde, V.	Pte.
Houlder, C. H.	Pte.	Humphrey, S.	Pte.	Hyder, S. A.	Pte.
Housden, A.	Pte.	Humphrey, W.	Pte.	Hyland, G.	L./Sergt.
Housego, H.	Pte.	Humphrey, W. (8793)	Pte.	Hyman, S.	Pte.
Howard, A.	Pte.	Humphrey, W. E.	Pte.		
Howard, A. E.	L./Corp.	Humphrey, W. J.	Sergt.	Ibbotson, H.	Pte.
Howard, C.	Pte.	Humphreys, A.	Pte.	Iles, H.	Pte.
Howard, E. A.	Pte.	Humphreys, J. S.	Pte.	Iles, T. E.	Pte.
Howard, J. H.	Pte.	Humphreys, T. E.	Pte.	Ingarfill, F.	Pte.
Howard, J. W.	Pte.	Hunebell, W.	Pte.	Ingham, E. W.	Pte.
Howard, S. J.	Sergt.	Hunn, P. A.	Pte.	Ingham, L. L.	Pte.
Howat, A. F.	Pte.	Hunnibell, J. S.	Pte.	Ingle, L. L.	L./Corp.
Howe, C.	Pte.	Hunt, A. A. E.	A./Sergt.	Ingram, A.	Pte.
Howell, C. J.	L./Corp.	Hunt, C. E.	Pte.	Ingram, A. (4729)	Pte.
Howell, G. A.	Pte.	Hunt, G. K.	Pte.	Ings, A. E.	Pte.
Howell, G. E.	Pte.	Hunt, G. V. A.	Pte.	Inns, A. G.	Pte.
Howell, W.	Pte.	Hunt, H. I.	Pte.	Inns, E. G.	Pte.
Howes, F. H.	Pte.	Hunt, H. W.	Pte.	Inns, P.	Pte.
Howlett, A. A.	Pte.	(French M.M.)	Sergt.	Instrell, A. C.	Pte.
Howlett, F. J.	L./Sergt.	Hunt, J.	Pte.	Iorns, F. A.	L./Corp.
Hoyland, W. P.	Pte.	Hunt, J. H.	Pte.	Ireland, S.	Pte.
Hubbard, A. A.	Pte.	Hunt, J. H. (5447)	Pte.	Irish, F. J.	Pte.
Huck, T.	Pte.	Hunt, R. H.	Sergt.	Ironside, D. W.	Pte.
Hucklebridge, C. H.	Pte.	Hunt, R. J.	Pte.	Irvin, C. A.	Pte.
Hudson, A.	Pte.	Hunt, T. W. H.	Pte.	Irwin, S. C.	L./Corp.
Hudson, F. R.	Pte.	Hunter, A. J.	Pte.	Isaac, J.	Pte.
Hudson, F. R. (36753)	Pte.	Hunter, J.	Sergt.	Isaacs, S.	Pte.
		Hurcomb, J. J.	Pte.	Isted, F.	Pte.
Hudson, J. A.	Pte.	Hurcombe, G. D. W.	Pte.	Ives, J. W.	Pte.
Hudson, J. T.	Pte.	Hurford, T.	Pte.	Ivory, C.	Corp.
Hughes, A.	Pte.	Hurley, C. A.	Pte.		
Hughes, A. E.	Pte.	Hurley, P.	Pte.	Jackman, S.	Pte.
Hughes, E. T.	Sergt.	Hurrell, R. H.	Pte.	Jackman, W.	Pte.
Hughes, H. C.	Pte.	Hurst, F. B.	Pte.	Jackson, A.	Pte.
Hughes, W.	Pte.	Hurst, G. W.	Pte.	Jackson, A. (9961)	Pte.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 281

Jackson, E.	Pte.	Jenner, J. M.	Pte.	Jones, D.	Pte.
Jackson, F.	L./Corp.	Jennings, C.	Pte.	Jones, D. (20472)	Pte.
Jackson, G.	Pte.	Jennings, C. H.	Pte.	Jones, D. (27325)	Pte.
Jackson, H.	C.S.M.	Jennings, G. R.	A./Sergt.	Jones, D. J.	Pte.
Jackson, H. (9199)	C.S.M.	Jennings, J. A.	Pte.	Jones, D. R.	Pte.
Jackson, H. A.	Pte.	Jennings, W. C.	Pte.	Jones, D. T.	Pte.
Jackson, H. J.	L./Corp.	Jewers, C. H.	Pte.	Jones, F. R. J.	Pte.
Jackson, J.	L./Corp.	Jewson, F., D.C.M.	Pte.	Jones, F. W.	Pte.
Jackson, J. A.	Pte.	Jiggins, F. C.	L./Corp.	Jones, G., D.C.M.	Sergt.
Jacobs, J.	Pte.	Jobson, G. F.	Pte.	Jones, G. E.	Pte.
Jacobs, R.	Pte.	Jobson, J.	L./Corp.	Jones, G. H.	Pte.
Jakes, J. J. E.	Pte.	Johnson, A.	Pte.	Jones, H.	Pte.
James, A.	Pte.	Johnson, A. (26007)	Pte.	Jones, H. (7176)	Pte.
James, A. S.	L./Corp.	Johnson, A. M.	Pte.	Jones, H. A.	Pte.
James, C.	A./Corp.	Johnson, B. K.	Pte.	Jones, J. E.	Pte.
James, F. T., D.C.M.,		Johnson, C. J.	Pte.	Jones, J. H.	Pte.
M.M.	Sergt.	Johnson, E.	Corp.	Jones, J. J.	Pte.
James, H.	Pte.	Johnson, E. V.	Pte.	Jones, R.	L./Corp.
James, H. (12851)	Pte.	Johnson, F.	Corp.	Jones, R. D.	Pte.
James, J.	Pte.	Johnson, F.	Pte.	Jones, R. H.	Pte.
James, S. H.	Pte.	Johnson, F. C.	Pte.	Jones, R. W.	Pte.
James, W., D.C.M., M.M.		Johnson, F. L.	Pte.	Jones, R. W. (9769)	Pte.
	L./Corp.	Johnson, F. N.	Pte.	Jones, S.	L./Corp.
James, W.	Pte.	Johnson, G.	Pte.	Jones, S. H.	Pte.
Janes, H. J.	Sergt.	Johnson, H., M.M.		Jones, T.	Pte.
Jardine, H.	Pte.		L./Corp.	Jones, T. (3281)	Pte.
Jarman, A.	Pte.	Johnson, J. R.	Pte.	Jones, T. (32593)	Pte.
Jarman, B. S.	Pte.	Johnson, J. W.	Pte.	Jones, T. (202697)	Pte.
Jarrett, T. E.	Pte.	Johnson, L.	Pte.	Jones, W.	Pte.
Jarvis, A. E.	Sergt.	Johnson, L. W.	L./Corp.	Jones, W. D.	Pte.
Jarvis, F. J. W.	Pte.	Johnson, N.	Pte.	Jones, W. G.	Pte.
Jarvis, W. A.	Pte.	Johnson, S.	Pte.	Jones, W. J.	Pte.
Jasper, J. E.	Pte.	Johnson, T.	Pte.	Jones, W. M.	L./Sergt.
Jay, C. E.	Pte.	Johnson, T. C.	Pte.	Jones, W. R.	Pte.
Jeal, R. A. J.	Corp.	Johnson, W.	Pte.	Jordan, A. C.	Pte.
Jefferies, G.	Sergt.	Johnson, W. H.	Pte.	Jordan, A. C. (2810)	Pte.
Jeffery, A. A.	Pte.	Johnson, W. J.	Pte.	Jordan, W.	Corp.
Jeffrey, W.	Pte.	Johnson, W. N.	Pte.	Jordan, J. W.	Pte.
Jeffs, H. H.	L./Corp.	Johnstone, D. B.	Bdm.	Joscelyne, E. A.	Pte.
Jelf, H. J.	Pte.	Johnstone, W.	Sergt.	Joseph, S. H.	Pte.
Jenkerson, C., D.C.M.		Joiner, C. W. E.	C.S.M.	Jotcham, W.	L./Corp.
	Sergt.	Jolley, A. H.	Pte.	Joyce, A.	Pte.
Jenkins, D.	Pte.	Jolliffe, T. D.	Pte.	Joyce, A. A.	Pte.
Jenkins, E.	Pte.	Jolly, E. R.	Corp.	Joyce, T.	Pte.
Jenkins, G. L.	Pte.	Jolly, T.	Pte.	Joyce, W.	Pte.
Jenkins, J.	Pte.	Jolly, W. J.	Pte.	Joyner, L.	Corp.
Jenkins, S. W.	Pte.	Jonas, F. H.	L./Corp.	Judd, A.	Pte.
Jenkins, W.	Pte.	Jones, A.	Pte.	Judd, C. R.	Pte.
Jenner, G. I.	Pte.	Jones, C. H.	Pte.	Judd, F. C.	L./Corp.

Judd, H. R.	Pte.	Killick, H. F.	Pte.	Kittle, R.	Pte.
Jude, H.	Pte.	Killick, H. J.	Pte.	Kiver, I. G.	L./Corp.
Judge, A. G.	Pte.	Killick, W. A.	Pte.	Klippel, S.	Pte.
Jupp, G. H.	Pte.	Killman, J.	Pte.	Knight, A.	Pte.
Jupp, W.	Pte.	Kimber, C. A.	Pte.	Knight, A. J.	Corp.
Juster, J.	Pte.	Kimble, A.	Pte.	Knicht, C. T.	Pte.
		Kime, A. F.	L./Corp.	Knight, C. W.	Pte.
Kaine, R.	Pte.	Kinahan, T.	Pte.	Knight, E. J.	Pte.
Kaye, A. E.	Sergt.	King, A.	Pte.	Knight, F.	Pte.
Keattch, R.	Pte.	King, A. (48202)	Pte.	Knight, F. H.	Pte.
Keeble, J. T.	Pte.	King, A. (15998), D.C.M.	Pte.	Knight, F. W.	Pte.
Keeble, R.	Pte.		Pte.	Knight, G. A.	Pte.
Keefe, H. J.	Pte.	King, A. (17057)	Pte.	Knight, H.	L./Sergt.
Kefford, C. J.	Pte.	King, A. E.	Pte.	Knight, S. H.	Pte.
Keily, C.	Pte.	King, A. E. (12208)	Pte.	Knight, W.	Pte.
Kelland, G. H. (16273)	Pte.	King, A. G.	Pte.	Knight, W. J.	L./Corp.
		King, A. J.	L./Corp.	Knights, E. G.	Pte.
Kellingray, F.	Pte.	King, C.	Pte.	Knights, J. W.	L./Sergt.
Kellow, E. H.	L./Corp.	King, E.	Pte.	Knott, D.	Pte.
Kelly, E. H.	Pte.	King, E. (2068)	Pte.	Knott, H. E.	Pte.
Kelly, G.	Pte.	King, F. H.	Pte.	Knott, M. M. W.	Pte.
Kelly, H. J.	L./Corp.	King, G.	Pte.	Knowles, F.	Pte.
Kelly, J.	L./Corp.	King, G. T.	Pte.	Kynaston, R. H.	Pte.
Kelly, J.	Pte.	King, H.	Sergt.		
Kelly, J. (11761)	Pte.	King, H.	Pte.	Lacey, F.	Pte.
Kelly, J. P.	Pte.	King, H. A.	Pte.	Lacey, G.	Pte.
Kelly, L.	Pte.	King, H. J.	L./Corp.	Lacy, W.	Pte.
Kelsall, J.	Pte.	King, J.	Pte.	Ladbury, A. E.	Pte.
Kelsey, A.	Pte.	King, J. (8688)	Pte.	Ladbury, G.	Pte.
Kemp, E.	Pte.	King, P.	Pte.	Ladd, W.	R.S.M.
Kemp, J.	Pte.	King, P. A.	Pte.	Laidler, E. A.	Pte.
Kendall, E.	Pte.	King, S.	Pte.	Lake, F.	L./Corp.
Kendall, M. J. H.	Pte.	King, S. F.	Pte.	Lallem, F. J.	Pte.
Kennedy, A. W.	Pte.	King, S. J.	Pte.	Lamb, I. C.	Pte.
Kennedy, T.	Pte.	King, S. W.	Pte.	Lamb, S.	Pte.
Kenneth, A.	Corp.	King, T. A.	Pte.	Lambell, W. L.	Pte.
Kenney, A. E.	Pte.	King, W.	Pte.	Lambert, A.	Pte.
Kennison, T.	Pte.	King, W. A.	Pte.	Lambert, E.	Pte.
Kenward, A.	Pte.	King, W. F.	Pte.	Lambert, P. J.	Pte.
Kershaw, A.	Pte.	Kingshott, A. C.	Pte.	Lambert, R. E.	Pte.
Kettle, A.	Pte.	Kingsman, G. R.	Pte.	Lambird, A. E.	Pte.
Kew, F. C.	Pte.	Kington, M. H.	Pte.	Lamputt, H.	Pte.
Key, W. S.	Pte.	Kirby, H.	Pte.	Lancaster, W. J.	Pte.
Keys, P.	Pte.	Kirby, H. W.	Pte.	Landamore, J. H.	Pte.
Keyworth, J. G.	Pte.	Kirby, W. R. G.	Pte.	Lander, R. L.	L./Corp.
Kibble, A. G.	Pte.	Kirk, J. R.	Pte.	Landymore, F.	Pte.
Kieley, W. N.	Pte.	Kirkland, W. E.	Pte.	Lane, A. W.	Pte.
Kiggins, W.	Corp.	Kitchener, G.	Pte.	Lane, G.	Pte.
Kilhams, W. J.	Pte.	Kitchener, H.	Pte.	Lane, H. G.	Pte.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 283

Lane, J.	L./Sergt.	Leadbeater, W. A.	Lewis, D. D.	L./Corp.
Lane, J.	Pte.	L./Corp.	Lewis, E.	Pte.
Lane, J. H.	C.S.M.	Leadbitter, T.	Lewis, F. W.	Pte.
Lane, P. W.	Pte.	Leakey, S.	Lewis, H. G. J.	Pte.
Lane, W.	Pte.	Learey, J. T.	Lewis, I. A.	Pte.
Lane, W. J.	Pte.	Leaton, J. H.	Lewis, J.	Pte.
Lang, F. C. E.	Pte.	Le Breton, W. C.	Lewis, R. A.	Pte.
Langdridge, G.	Pte.	Lee, A. J.	Lewis, V. H.	Pte.
Lange, R. S.	L./Corp.	Lee, C. H.	Lewis, W.	Pte.
Langford, A.	Pte.	Lee, G.	Leyshon, C. E.	Corp.
Langley, A. E.	Pte.	Lee, H.	Liall, H.	Pte.
Langley, H.	L./Corp.	Lee, J.	Liddiard, G.	Pte.
Langley, W.	Pte.	Lee, S. H.	Liddle, F. C.	Pte.
Langston, R.	L./Corp.	Lee, T.	Lidlow, A.	Pte.
Lansom, L.	Pte.	Lee, W.	Lidster, R.	Pte.
Larbey, T.	Pte.	Leeds, H. C. G.	Light, C. R.	Pte.
Largent, W.	Pte.	Lees, E. J.	Light, W.	L./Corp.
Larkinson, A. G.	Pte.	Legall, G. W.	Lilley, C. F.	Pte.
Larkman, J.	Pte.	Legg, O.	Lilver, A.	Pte.
Latford, G.	Pte.	Legon, C. A.	Lincoln, A. C.	Pte.
Latham, B. W.	Pte.	Legood, A.	Lindley, J.	Pte.
Latham, D.	Pte.	Le Grice, E. R.	Lindsay, J.	R.S.M.
Lathey, F.	Pte.	Leisten, E. W.	Lindsay, L.	Pte.
Latter, A.	Pte.	Leitch, J.	Lines, E.	Pte.
Latter, C. W.	Pte.	Le Mercier, W. V. G.	Linford, A. F.	L./Corp.
Lattimer, A. A.	Pte.	Sergt.	Linford, J. F.	Pte.
Laughton, E. C.	C.S.M.	Le Moigan, P. C.	Ling, A. E.	Pte.
Lauder, H. N.	Pte.	Lemon, F.	Ling, C.	Pte.
Lavender, G. H.	L./Corp.	Lemon, W. G.	Ling, J.	Pte.
Laver, W. J.	Pte.	Lenanton, G.	Linge, A.	Pte.
Lavey, J. W.	Pte.	Lenton, W.	Linkin, A. J.	L./Sergt.
Law, H. G.	Pte.	Leonard, A.	Linnett, A. W.	Pte.
Lawes, A.	Pte.	Leonard, A. (26051)	Linsell, C.	Pte.
Lawrence, A. W.	Pte.	Leonard, B.	Linstead, W. C.	Pte.
Lawrence, E. A.	Pte.	Leonard, R.	Litchfield, G.	Pte.
Lawrence, E. A. (3287)	Pte.	Leonard, T.	Little, C. F.	Pte.
		Leonard, T. (5965)	Little, S.	Pte.
Lawrence, G. E.	Pte.	Lester, H. L.	Littlefield, W.	Pte.
Lawrence, P.	Pte.	Lester, W.	Littlejohn, E.	Pte.
Laws, E. C.	Pte.	Lester, W. N.	Littlejohn, F. C.	Pte.
Laws, J.	Pte.	Letchford, W. G.	Littleton, G.	Pte.
Lawson, H.	Corp.	Lett, A. G.	Litton, A. H.	Pte.
Lawson, J. T.	Pte.	Levell, M.	Livett, E. A.	Pte.
Lawther, A.	Pte.	Levett, J.	Livingstone, R. J. A.	Pte.
Lawton, W. A.	Pte.	Levey, L. W.	Lloyd, C.	Pte.
Lay, F.	Pte.	Levy, I.	Lloyd, C. E.	Pte.
Leach, H.	Pte.	Lewington, A.	Lloyd, F.	Pte.
Leach, W. H.	Corp.	Lewington, A. E.	Lloyd, W.	Pte.
Lead, H. L.	Pte.	Lewis, B.	Loake, T. A.	Pte.
		L./Corp.		

Lock, A. J.	Pte.	Lugg, W. J.	Pte.	Mansbridge, R.	Pte.
Lock, F. C.	Pte.	Luigi, J.	Pte.	Mansell, E. L.	L./Corp.
Locket, F. J.	Pte.	Lumer, J. F. T.	Pte.	Manser, V. G.	Pte.
Lockett, K. G.	Pte.	Lunn, F. J.	Pte.	Mansfield, H.	L./Corp.
Lockwood, A.	Pte.	Lunn, V.	L./Corp.	Mansfield, L. W.	Pte.
Lockwood, S. C.	Pte.	Lynch, J.	Pte.	Maple, F. J.	L./Corp.
Lodge, C. E.	Pte.	Lynch, J. P.	Pte.	Marcham, J.	A./Corp.
Lodge, G.	Pte.	Lyndsell, F. W.	L./Corp.	Marchand, S. H.	Pte.
Loft, H. T.	Pte.	Lynn, E. E.	L./Corp.	Marchant, A. E.	Pte.
Logan, B.	Pte.	Lyons, C. W. W.	Pte.	Mardell, E. T.	Pte.
Lomas, G. W.	Pte.			Marden, C. G.	Pte.
Loney, W.	Pte.	Macarthy, J. H.	Pte.	Mardle, H.	T./Corp.
Long, F.	Pte.	MacDonald, A. E.	Pte.	Maris, E. A.	Pte.
Long, F. (17905)	Pte.	Mace, S. C.	Pte.	Mark, A. J.	Pte.
Long, G. F.	Pte.	Machin, W. G.	Pte.	Marker, J. H.	Pte.
Long, J.	Pte.	Mack, R.	Pte.	Markham, F. H. C.	Sergt.
Long, J. (201096)	Pte.	Mack, W. H.	Pte.	Marks, G. A.	Pte.
Long, L. W.	Pte.	Mackinney, G.	Pte.	Marks, G. E.	Sergt.
Long, T. J.	Pte.	Macknish, R. W.	Pte.	Marks, P. S.	Pte.
Long, W. G.	Pte.	Maclaren, J. M.	Pte.	Marks, W. J.	Pte.
Longbottom, C. D.	Pte.	MacMillan, G. W.	Pte.	Markwick, C.	Pte.
Longley, W. A.	A./Sergt.	Macro, W. J.	Pte.	Marlow, E.	Sergt.
Looker, J. R.	L./Corp.	Madden, J.	Pte.	Marney, G. E.	Sergt.
Lord, H.	Pte.	Maddison, D. S., M.M.	C.Q.M.S.	Marnock, G.	Pte.
Lord, V.	Corp.			Marnock, R.	Pte.
Lorkin, J. H.	Pte.	Maguire, C., M.M.	A./Sergt.	Marrs, D. H.	Pte.
Lovan, F.	Pte.			Mars, T. W.	Pte.
Love, H. H.	Pte.	Maher, F. W.	Pte.	Marsden, A.	Pte.
Love, W. J.	Corp.	Major, C. R.	Pte.	Marsh, A. E.	Sergt.
Lovegrove, B.	Pte.	Makeham, G. F.	Pte.	Marsh, C.	A./C.S.M.
Lovegrove, J. W.	Pte.	Malcher, C. W.	Pte.	Marsh, W.	Pte.
Loveland, A.	L./Corp.	Malham, T.	L./Corp.	Marsh, W. J.	Pte.
Loveland, G.	Pte.	Malines, W.	Pte.	Marshall, A.	Pte.
Lovelock, J., M.M.	A./Corp.	Malkin, P.	Pte.	Marshall, A. D.	Pte.
		Mallett, W. A.	Pte.	Marshall, F.	Pte.
Loveridge, H.	A./Corp.	Malpas, A. G.	Pte.	Marshall, H.	Corp.
Loveridge, M.	Pte.	Malyon, H. E.	L./Corp.	Marshall, H.	Pte.
Lovett, A. S.	Pte.	Manby, J. C.	Pte.	Marshall, M.	Pte.
Lovick, H. G.	Pte.	Mancey, H.	Pte.	Marston, C. E.	Pte.
Low, W.	Sergt.	Manchee, G.	Pte.	Martin, A.	Pte.
Lowe, C.	Pte.	Manger, G. E.	Pte.	Martin, A. J.	Pte.
Lowe, G. R.	Pte.	Mann, A. J.	Pte.	Martin, A. V.	Pte.
Lowe, H. T.	Pte.	Mann, G. C. S.	L./Corp.	Martin, A. W.	Pte.
Lowings, H. J.	L./Corp.	Mann, P.	Pte.	Martin, C.	Pte.
Lucas, H. G.	Pte.	Mann, P. (13683)	Pte.	Martin, D. W., M.M.	Pte.
Luckett, R.	Pte.	Mannerling, H. W.	A./Sergt.	Martin, E.	L./Corp.
Luckie, F. J.	Pte.			Martin, E. T.	Corp.
Ludkin, H. G.	Pte.	Manning, C. J.	Pte.	Martin, F. C.	Pte.
Ludlow, S.	Pte.	Manning, G. A.	Pte.		

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 285

Martin, F. E.	Pte.	Maybin, A. E.	Pte.	McMahon, J.	L./Corp.
Martin, F. W.	Pte.	Mayd, G. F.	Pte.	McMillan, A. E.	Sergt.
Martin, G. F.	Pte.	Mayer, J. H.	Corp.	McNamara, J., V.C.	Corp.
Martin, H. A.	Pte.	Mayes, D.	Pte.	McNamara, J.	L./Corp.
Martin, H. R.	Pte.	Mayfield, W. G.	Pte.	McNaughton, A. G.	Pte.
Martin, L.	Pte.	Mayland, V. J.	Pte.	McNevison, E.	Pte.
Martin, R.	Sergt.	Mayo, H. W.	Pte.	McQuiggan, W.	Pte.
Martin, S. R.	L./Corp.	Mayrick, R. T.	Pte.	McQuire, G.	Pte.
Martin, S. W.	Pte.	Mays, H.	Pte.	McWhirter, J. W.	Pte.
Martin, W.	Pte.	McAuliffe, W.	Pte.	Meachin, J.	Pte.
Maskell, A. H.	Pte.	McCarthy, A.	Pte.	Mead, J. J.	Pte.
Maskell, T.	Pte.	McCarthy, D. T.	Pte.	Mead, L.	L./Corp.
Maslin, W. A.	L./Corp.	McCarthy, G.	Pte.	Meadows, E.	Pte.
Mason, A.	Pte.	McCarthy, G. (31269)	Pte.	Meads, E. A.	Pte.
Mason, C.	Pte.	McCarthy, J.	Pte.	Meadway, D. H.	Pte.
Mason, G.	Pte.	McCarthy, P.	Pte.	Mears, L.	Sergt.
Mason, G. H.	Corp.	McCormack, D.	Pte.	Meddings, E.	L./Corp.
Mason, G. T.	Pte.	McCormack, S. N.	Pte.	Medhurst, J.	Pte.
Mason, J. W.	Pte.	McCoughie, E. L.	Pte.	Meecham, J.	Pte.
Mason, S. J.	Pte.	McCraw, R. E.	Pte.	Meek, D. E.	L./Corp.
Mason, V.	Pte.	McDermott, J.	Pte.	Meek, E. J.	Pte.
Mason, W.	Pte.	McDonald, A.	Pte.	Melhuish, J. H.	L./Corp.
Mason, W. A.	L./Corp.	McDonald, C. J. J.	Pte.	Meldrum, A.	Pte.
Massingham, W. J.	Pte.	McDonald, J.	Corp.	Melia, M.	Pte.
Masters, L.	Sergt.	McDonald, J. (1305)	Corp.	Mellor, J.	Pte.
Mathias, G.	L./Corp.		A./Corp.	Melvin, W. J.	Pte.
Mathie, C. G.	Pte.	McDonald, J. J.	Pte.	Menzal, C. F.	Sergt.
Matkin, A. E.	Pte.	McDonald, P.	Pte.	Menzie, L.	Pte.
Matthew, A. T.	Pte.	McEnaney, H.	Pte.	Mercer, J.	Pte.
Matthews, A. E.	Pte.	McEwen, A.	Pte.	Mercer, T.	Pte.
Matthews, C. F.	Pte.	McEwen, R. H.	Pte.	Mercer, T. (26448)	Pte.
Matthews, E.	Pte.	McFarlane, W.	Pte.	Merrick, J.	Pte.
Matthews, F. W.	Pte.	McFie, W.	Pte.	Merrill, W. T.	Pte.
Matthews, H.	Pte.	McGee, A.	Col. Sergt.	Merritt, C. E.	Pte.
Matthews, J.	Pte.	McGeorge, E. W.	Pte.	Merritt, F. A.	L./Corp.
Matthews, J. (16193)	Pte.	McGregor, H. T.	Pte.	Merritt, H. J.	Sergt.
Matthews, J. (25979)	Pte.		L./Corp.	Messenger, A. J.	Pte.
Matton, T.	Pte.	McGuinn, J.	Sergt.	Middleton, J.	Pte.
Maud, A. J.	Pte.	McGuinness, R. E.	Pte.	Mildenhall, W.	Pte.
Maughan, W. J.	Pte.		L./Sergt.	Mileham, F.	Pte.
Maxwell, G.	Pte.	McGuire, W. M.	Pte.	Miles, A.	A./Corp.
Maxwell, H. J.	Pte.	McInnes, C. H.	Pte.	Miles, C.	Pte.
May, E. G.	Pte.	McKeirnan, E.	Pte.	Miles, F.	Pte.
May, F. H.	Pte.	McKenzie, T. A.	Pte.	Miles, F. (31158)	Pte.
May, F. J.	Pte.	McKiernan, F.	Pte.	Miles, F. W.	Pte.
May, H. J.	Pte.	McLean, D.	Pte.	Miles, G.	Pte..
May, J.	A./C.S.M.	McLean, N.	Pte.	Miles, H. W.	Pte.
May, R.	Pte.	McLean, T.	Pte.	Miles, J.	Pte.
May, W. A.	Pte.	McLee, J.	Pte.	Miles, J. R.	Pte.

Miles, L. F.	Pte.	Moffat, J.	Pte.	Morris, W. (6763)	Pte.
Miles, W. H.	Pte.	Moffatt, S. F.	L./Corp.	Morris, W. R.	Pte.
Millard, H. G.	L./Corp.	Moir, G. G.	Pte.	Morrison, J.	Pte.
Miller, A. J.	L./Corp.	Monaghan, W.	Pte.	Morse, C. H.	Pte.
Miller, A. J.	Pte.	Monk, J. C.	Pte.	Mortimer, C. T. J.	Pte.
Miller, C.	Pte.	Monk, J. W.	Pte.	Mortimer, W.	Pte.
Miller, E. E.	L./Corp.	Monk, R. C.	L./Corp.	Mortimer, W. (13672)	Pte.
Miller, E. H.	L./Corp.	Montague, A. E.	Sergt.	Mortimer, W. F.	Pte.
Miller, F.	L./Corp.	Montague, L. S.	Pte.	Morton, R.	L./Corp.
Miller, F.	Pte.	Montague, R. T.	L./Corp.	Moseley, J.	Pte.
Miller, H.	Pte.	Montague, R. T.	L./Corp.	Moss, C.	Pte.
Miller, J.	L./Corp.	Montgomery, H., M.M.	Corp.	Moss, E. W.	Pte.
Miller, J. B.	Sergt.			Moss, J.	Pte.
Miller, L. G.	Pte.	Moody, H.	Pte.	Moth, H. G.	Pte.
Miller, T.	Pte.	Moody, W. J.	Pte.	Mott, A. H.	Pte.
Miller, W.	Pte.	Moon, F.	Pte.	Mott, A. V.	Pte.
Miller, W. (27282)	Pte.	Moon, J. W.	Pte.	Moules, A.	Pte.
Miller, W. T. H.	Pte.	Moon, R. C. G.	Pte.	Mount, P. V.	L./Corp.
Mills, A.	Pte.	Moorcock, W. A.	Pte.	Moxon, G.	Corp.
Mills, A. (28271)	Pte.	Moore, A.	Pte.	Moxon, H. D.	Pte.
Mills, A. G.	L./Corp.	Moore, A. A.	Pte.	Muckian, P.	Pte.
Mills, C.	Pte.	Moore, D.	Pte.	Muckler, J.	Pte.
Mills, E. B.	Pte.	Moore, D. A.	L./Corp.	Muddle, R. E.	Pte.
Mills, F. H. J.	Pte.	Moore, F. D.	Pte.	Mudie, A.	A./Sergt.
Mills, P.	Pte.	Moore, F. W.	Pte.	Muggeridge, H. W.	Pte.
Mills, S.	Pte.	Moore, G.	Pte.	Mulady, J. J.	Pte.
Mills, W. H.	L./Corp.	Moore, G. E.	Pte.	Mullett, W. R. G.	Corp.
Mills, W. J.	L./Sergt.	Moore, J. H.	L./Sergt.	Mulley, E. H.	Pte.
Milner, C. D.	L./Corp.	Moore, J. T.	Pte.	Mulligan, A.	Pte.
Milner, H.	Pte.	Moore, J. W.	Pte.	Mullins, H. W.	Pte.
Milner, W. E.	Pte.	Moore, T., M.M.	Pte.	Mullins, J. J.	Pte.
Milthorp, E. A.	Sergt.	Moorey, F.	Pte.	Mullins, W. J. M.	Pte.
Milton, G. E.	A./Sergt.	Morath, A. J.	L./Corp.	Mulville, W. F.	Pte.
Minahan, M.	C.S.M.	Morecombe, A.	Pte.	Mumford, F. A.	Pte.
Minett, G.	Pte.	Morgan, A.	A./Corp.	Mummery, W.	Pte.
Minter, G.	Pte.	Morgan, E.	Pte.	Munday, E.	Pte.
Minter, G. S.	Pte.	Morgan, J.	Corp.	Munegan, T.	Pte.
Miranda, D.	Pte.	Morgan, J. W. H.	Pte.	Munns, F. A.	Pte.
Mitchell, A.	Pte.	Morgan, S. E.	Pte.	Munro, W.	Pte.
Mitchell, E. E.	Pte.	Morley, F.	A./L./Corp.	Munson, A. E.	Pte.
Mitchell, G. F. H.	Pte.	Morley, F. (2827)	Pte.	Murcott, H. J.	Sergt.
Mitchell, G. T.	Pte.	Morley, J.	Pte.	Murfin, W.	Pte.
Mitchell, H. F.	A./Corp.	Morrell, T. C.	L./Sergt.	Murphy, P.	Pte.
Mitchell, J.	Pte.	Morris, G.	L./Sergt.	Murphy, P. (33939)	Pte.
Mitchell, J. W.	Pte.	Morris, J. P.	Pte.	Murphy, W. B.	Pte.
Mitchell, S.	Pte.	Morris, J. R.	Pte.	Murray, F.	Pte.
Mitchell, W. H.	Sergt.	Morris, R.	Pte.	Murton, H. A. W.	Pte.
Mockett, G.	Pte.	Morris, T. H.	Pte.	Mutton, F.	Pte.
Moffat, D. W.	Pte.	Morris, W.	Pte.		

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 287

Mutton, H. W.	L./Corp.	Newson, J. W.	Pte.	Norton, V. H.	Pte.
Myall, E.	L./Sergt.	Newton, C.	Pte.	Norton, W.	A./Corp.
Myers, A. E.	Pte.	Newton, F.	Pte.	Norwood, E.	Pte.
Myers, A. J.	L./Corp.	Newton, H. S.	Pte.	Nowland, A.	Pte.
Myers, M.	Pte.	Nice, W.	Pte.	Nudds, J. W.	Pte.
Myers, M. J.	Pte.	Nicholas, J. C.	L./Corp.	Nugent, C.	Pte.
		Nicholas, J. G.	L./Corp.	Nunn, J.	Pte.
Naish, S.	C.S.M.	Nicholls, P. W.	Pte.	Nunn, P.	Pte.
Nalard, A. W.	Pte.	Nicholson, A. L.	Pte.	Nutkins, W. H. R.	Pte.
Nash, E.	Pte.	Nicholson, F. J.	Pte.	Nutley, F. V.	Corp.
Nash, G.	Pte.	Nicholson, H.	Pte.	Nutley, G.	Pte.
Nash, J.	Pte.	Nicholson, J.	L./Corp.	Nutley, W. E.	Pte.
Nash, J. W.	L./Corp.	Nicholson, L. T.	Pte.	Nye, C. G.	Pte.
Nash, P.	Pte.	Nicholson, V. H.	Pte.		
Nation, C. T.	Pte.	Nickerson, H. J.	C.Q.M.S.	Oakes, A. F.	Pte.
Nation, F. A.	Pte.	Nicoll, W.	Pte.	Oakes, D. E.	Pte.
Nation, G.	Pte.	Nightingale, C. A.	Pte.	Oatley, H. A.	L./Corp.
Naylor, W. A.	L./Corp.	Nightingale, W.	Pte.	O'Brien, D.	Pte.
Neal, W. R.	Pte.	Ninnes, H. G.	Pte.	O'Brien, J.	Pte.
Neale, E. J.	Pte.	Nixon, G.	Pte.	O'Connell, F., D.C.M.	
Neale, F. L.	Pte.	Noble, F. J.	Pte.		Pte.
Neale, J. E.	Pte.	Noble, G.	Pte.	O'Connell, J.	Pte.
Neaves, W.	Pte.	Noble, I. N.	Pte.	O'Connor, M.	Pte.
Nedd, W.	Pte.	Noel, E. J.	Pte.	Oddy, R. H.	Pte.
Needham, G.	L./Corp.	Nokes, R.	Pte.	Odgers, G. W.	Pte.
Neeld, R. S.	Pte.	Noles, H. C.	Pte.	Offord, J. D.	Pte.
Neeves, A. O.	Pte.	Noonan, E.	Pte.	Offord, P. J.	Pte.
Nevill, W. B.	Sergt.	Norman, A. A.	Pte.	Offord, W. G.	L./Corp.
Neville, A.	Pte.	Norman, G. A.	Pte.	Ogden, W.	Pte.
Neville, J. R.	Pte.	Norman, G. B.	Pte.	Old, H.	A./Corp.
Neville, S.	Pte.	Norman, J.	Pte.	Older, A. F.	Pte.
New, W. A.	Pte.	Norman, J. (4913)	Pte.	Older, L.	Pte.
Newble, A. H.	Corp.	Norman, W. H.	Pte.	Oldridge, J. A.	Pte.
Newbon, F. E.	Corp.	Norris, C.	L./Corp.	Oliver, A. R.	Pte.
Newbon, W.	Pte.	Norris, F. C.	Pte.	Ollis, B. W.	Pte.
Newell, A. E.	Pte.	Norris, F. J.	Pte.	Ollis, C.	Pte.
Newland, G. W.	Pte.	Norris, G.	Pte.	Ollive, H. C.	Pte.
Newland, W. G.	A./Sergt.	Norris, J.	Pte.	Olver, J.	Pte.
Newman, A.	Pte.	Norris, N., M.M.	Corp.	O'Mahoney, J.	Pte.
Newman, A. V.	L./Corp.	Norris, P. J. A.	Pte.	O'Malley, A.	Pte.
Newman, G.	Pte.	Norris, T. G.	Pte.	O'Malley, M. D.	Pte.
Newman, J.	A./Sergt.	Norris, W.	Pte.	Openshaw, R.	Pte.
Newman, S.	Pte.	Norris, W. F.	Pte.	Oram, W. G.	Pte.
Newman, W. B.	Pte.	Norris, W. T. N.	Pte.	Orchard, D. S.	Sergt.
Newnham, C. J.	Pte.	North, E.	A./R.S.M.	O'Rourke, H. D. (23293)	
Newnham, H.	Pte.	North, E. W.	Pte.		Pte.
Newns, R. H.	Corp.	North, J. H.	Pte.	Orr, W.	Pte.
Newport, A. E.	Pte.	Northam, J.	Pte.	Orton, M. G.	Pte.
Newson, F.	Sergt.	Northfield, S. T.	Pte.	Orvis, F. J.	Corp.

Osborne, F.	Pte.	Palmer, F. W.	Pte.	Parsons, S. J.	Pte.
Osborne, H.	Pte.	Palmer, G. T. W.	Pte.	Parsons, W. G.	Pte.
Osborne, J.	Pte.	Palmer, H.	Pte.	Parsons, W. H.	Pte.
Osborne, J. T.	Sergt.	Palmer, R.	Pte.	Parsons, W. H. (25295)	Pte.
Osborne, S.	Pte.	Palmer, R. C.	L./Corp.	Partridge, E. J. H.	Bdm.
Osman, E. E.	Pte.	Palmer, R. W.	Pte.	Partridge, J.	Pte.
Osman, J.	Pte.	Palmer, S.	Pte.	Pascoe, J.	Pte.
O'Sullivan, T.	Pte.	Palmer, S. R.	Pte.	Pask, G.	Pte.
Oswell, L. C.	Pte.	Palmer, T.	Pte.	Paskell, A.	Corp.
Ottaway, H. C.	Sergt.	Palmer, W.	Pte.	Patch, S. R.	Pte.
Outram, R. S.	Pte.	Pankhurst, W. H.	Pte.	Patrick, P. H.	Pte.
Ovall, T.	Pte.	Panter, W. R.	Pte.	Patten, A.	Pte.
Ovenden, A.	Pte.	Panton, T.	Pte.	Pattison, H. J.	Pte.
Ovenden, A. W.	Pte.	Papworth, H. J.	Corp.	Pattman, A. L.	Pte.
Overend, S.	Pte.	Parish, W.	Pte.	Paul, A. D.	A./Corp.
Overington, W.	Pte.	Parker, C.	L./Corp.	Pavey, W. H.	Pte.
Overland, A. E.	Pte.	Parker, C.	Pte.	Pavitt, J. T. W.	Pte.
Overton, D. A. E.	Pte.	Parker, C. W.	Pte.	Pawsey, W.	Pte.
Owen, A.	Sergt.	Parker, F.	Pte.	Payne, A. H.	L./Corp.
Owen, A.	Pte.	Parker, F. C.	Pte.	Payne, B. H.	Pte.
Owen, B.	Pte.	Parker, G. T.	L./Corp.	Payne, B. R.	A./Corp.
Owen, C.	Pte.	Parker, H. E.	Pte.	Payne, F. C.	L./Corp.
Owen, J.	Pte.	Parker, J.	Pte.	Payne, F. C.	Pte.
Owen, J. E.	Pte.	Parker, J. (9380)	Pte.	Payne, H.	Sergt.
Oxford, A.	Pte.	Parker, J. (1833)	Pte.	Payne, H. L.	Pte.
Pack, T.	Pte.	Parker, S. J.	Pte.	Payne, J.	Pte.
Packham, A.	Pte.	Parker, T. H.	Corp.	Payne, R.	Pte.
Packham, E. C.	Pte.	Parkes, C. H.	Pte.	Payne, W.	Pte.
Packman, H. J.	Pte.	Parkes, F.	Pte.	Paynter, G.	Corp.
Packwood, C. J. C.	Sergt.	Parkinson, A. E.	Pte.	Peach, R. B. J.	Pte.
Paddey, P. B.	Pte.	Parkinson, J.	Pte.	Peach, W. S.	Pte.
Page, A.	Pte.	Parkinson, R. R.	Pte.	Peachey, H.	Pte.
Page, A. E.	Pte.	Parkinson, R. W.	Pte.	Peachey, J.	Pte.
Page, A. J.	Pte.	Parkinson, W.	Pte.	Peachey, R.	Pte.
Page, C. A.	Pte.	Parks, C.	Pte.	Peacock, A. J.	Pte.
Page, H. W.	Corp.	Parks, H. E.	Pte.	Peacock, E.	Pte.
Page, L. W.	Pte.	Parks, H. I.	Pte.	Peacock, P.	L./Corp.
Page, T.	Corp.	Parmenter, A. E.	Pte.	Peacock, W. T.	Corp.
Page, W.	Pte.	Parmenter, G. E.	Pte.	Pead, G.	Pte.
Page, W. H.	Pte.	Parr, W. G.	Pte.	Peake, C. J.	Pte.
Paine, E.	Pte.	Parry, L. G.	Pte.	Pearce, B.	Pte.
Painting, J.	Pte.	Parsons, A. E.	Pte.	Pearce, C. E.	Sergt.
Paisley, E. G.	C.Q.M.S.	Parsons, C. M.	Pte.	Pearce, F.	Corp.
Palfrey, B. C.	Pte.	Parsons, D. G.	Pte.	Pearce, F. H.	Pte.
Palfrey, H. G.	Pte.	Parsons, F. C.	A./Corp.	Pearce, J.	Pte.
Pallent, R.	Pte.	Parsons, F. J.	L./Corp.	Pearce, W.	Pte.
Palmer, A. J.	Pte.	Parsons, J.	L./Corp.	Pearce, W. H.	Pte.
Palmer, E. W.	Pte.	Parsons, J.	Pte.	Pearl, C. E.	Pte.
		Parsons, S. J.	Sergt.		

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 289

Pearson, R. J.	Pte.	Peterson, A. E.	A./C.S.M.	Pink, W.	Pte.
Pearson, W. H.	Pte.	Petley, H. S.	Pte.	Pinkard, A.	Pte.
Pearson, W. H. (26010)	Pte.	Petrie, J. H.	Pte.	Pinnuck, W. G.	Pte.
Peart, W.	Pte.	Petruskevicius, M.	Pte.	Piper, A. S.	Pte.
Peartree, F.	Pte.	Pett, T. W.	Pte.	Pitman, A. J.	Pte.
Pease, P. H.	Pte.	Pettiſer, A.	Pte.	Pitman, W.	Pte.
Pedder, C.	Pte.	Pettit, C. F.	Pte.	Pitt, P. D.	Pte.
Peirce, H.	Pte.	Pettitt, W.	Pte.	Pittam, H.	Pte.
Pelling, A. C.	Pte.	Pettitt, W. H.	Pte.	Pittock, W. J.	Pte.
Pembroke, J.	Pte.	Petta, A.	Pte.	Plackett, H. J.	Pte.
Pendry, G.	Pte.	Petty, J. R.	Pte.	Plackett, W. T.	Pte.
Penfold, F. W.	Pte.	Pharro, F.	Pte.	Pledger, T.	Pte.
Penfold, G.	Pte.	Phelps, W.	Pte.	Pleſted, F.	Pte.
Pengelly, H.	Pte.	Phelps, W. T.	Pte.	Pleſted, F. (9412)	Pte.
Penn, J. J.	Pte.	Phillips, A.	L./Corp.	Plowman, F. A.	Pte.
Pentelow, J.	Pte.	Phillips, A.	Pte.	Plowman, S.	Sergt.
Pepperell, C.	Pte.	Phillips, A. A.	Pte.	Plows, J.	C.S.M.
Percival, C.	Pte.	Phillips, C. W.	Pte.	Pluck, W. H.	Pte.
Percy, S.	Pte.	Phillips, D. J.	Pte.	Plumb, A. V.	Pte.
Perkins, E.	Pte.	Phillips, E.	Pte.	Plumb, E. A.	Pte.
Perrett, A. T.	Pte.	Phillips, E. S.	Pte.	Plumbridge, W.	Pte.
Perrin, E.	Pte.	Phillips, E. W.	Pte.	Poacher, R. J.	Pte.
Perrin, I. J.	Pte.	Phillips, G. J.	Pte.	Pobjoy, F.	Pte.
Perrin, W.	Pte.	Phillips, H. D.	Sergt.	Pocknee, F.	Pte.
Perring, W. F.	Pte.	Phillips, J. B.	Pte.	Pocknell, F. A.	L./Corp.
Perrons, R. A.	Pte.	Phillips, T.	Pte.	Pocock, H.	Pte.
Perrott, R. W.	Pte.	Phillips, T. W.	Pte.	Pocock, L.	Pte.
Perry, E.	Pte.	Phillips, W. J.	Pte.	Pocock, W. F.	Corp.
Perry, F. W.	A./Corp.	Phillipson, A.	Pte.	Points, R.	Corp.
Perry, H.	Pte.	Phillpot, F. E.	Pte.	Poke, J. H.	L./Corp.
Perry, J.	Pte.	Phillpot, J. W.	Pte.	Pollard, G.	Pte.
Perry, S.	Pte.	Philpott, G.	Pte.	Pollard, G. (33753)	Pte.
Perry, W.	Pte.	Phipps, A. J.	Pte.	Poole, F. E.	Pte.
Pert, R. W.	Pte.	Phipps, J. E.	Pte.	Poole, W.	Pte.
Pescud, A. C.	Pte.	Phipps, J. W.	Pte.	Pooley, J. J.	Pte.
Pescud, P.	Pte.	Pickard, J. I.	Pte.	Pope, J.	L./Corp.
Peskett, C.	Pte.	Pickett, J.	Pte.	Poplett, H. H.	L./Corp.
Pestell, A. W.	Pte.	Pidgeon, R. G.	C.Q.M.S.	Poplett, J. H.	Pte.
Petch, B. N.	Pte.	Pierce, C. H.	Sergt.	Port, T. H.	Pte.
Peter, C. C.	Pte.	Pigden, G. E.	Pte.	Porter, F. C.	L./Corp.
Peters, A. B.	L./Corp.	Piggott, C. W.	Pte.	Porter, H.	Pte.
Peters, D.	Pte.	Piggott, E. H.	Pte.	Porter, H. W.	Pte.
Peters, E.	Pte.	Piggott, T.	Pte.	Porter, S.	Pte.
Peters, F. G.	Pte.	Pigott, F. F.	Pte.	Porter, W.	Pte.
Peters, H.	Pte.	Pike, G.	Pte.	Porter, W. J.	Pte.
Peters, J. E.	Pte.	Pike, J. S.	Pte.	Porter, W. R.	Pte.
Peters, R.	Pte.	Pinion, J.	Pte.	Postlethwaite, H. L.	L./Corp.
Peters, T.	Pte.	Pink, A. H.	Pte.	Potter, A.	Pte.
		Pink, T. J.	L./Corp.	Potter, A. J.	Pte.

Potter, W.	Pte.	Prior, W. A.	Pte.	Radmore, A.	Pte.
Potter, W. (1321)	Pte.	Prior, W. G.	Pte.	Radway, E. V.	Pte.
Potting, W. J.	Pte.	Prior, W. J.	A./Corp.	Raggett, F. J.	Pte.
Potton, H. W.	Pte.	Pritchard, A.	Pte.	Ralph, F.	L./Corp.
Potts, H. H.	Pte.	Pritchard, F.	Pte.	Ralph, F. J.	Pte.
Potts, S. H.	Pte.	Pritchard, G. W.	L./Corp.	Ralph, G.	Pte.
Poulter, F. E.	Pte.	Pritchard, J.	Pte.	Ralph, H. D.	Pte.
Poulter, H.	Pte.	Pritchard, W. R.	Pte.	Ralph, H. F.	Pte.
Poulter, J. D.	Pte.	Privett, A. C.	Pte.	Ralph, W. J.	Pte.
Pout, J. A.	Pte.	Proctor, W. J.	Pte.	Ramsden, R. C.	Pte.
Povey, G.	Pte.	Proudman, W. C.	Pte.	Randall, F.	Pte.
Povey, H. C.	Pte.	Pryer, R.	Pte.	Randall, G. A.	L./Sergt.
Povey, T. E.	Pte.	Pryke, A. E.	Pte.	Randall, H.	Pte.
Pow, W. T.	Pte.	Pryse, T. J.	Pte.	Randall, H. G.	Pte.
Powell, C. H.	Pte.	Pullenger, H. J.	Pte.	Randall, W.	Pte.
Powell, G. H.	Pte.	Pullum, W. H.	Pte.	Randall, W. F.	Pte.
Powell, H. L.	L./Corp.	Punter, A. G.	L./Corp.	Randell, H. R.	Pte.
Powell, J. F.	Pte.	Punter, H.	L./Corp.	Rands, T.	Pte.
Powell, P.	Pte.	Purkiss, E.	Pte.	Ransom, E. E.	Pte.
Powell, R. J.	A./C.Q.M.S.	Purser, R.	Pte.	Rapley, J. W.	Pte.
Powers, F. W.	Pte.	Pursey, A. H.	Pte.	Rapley, W.	Pte.
Poysey, W.	Pte.	Pursey, W. J.	Pte.	Rashbrook, P.	L./Corp.
Pratt, C.	Pte.	Purssell, A.	Pte.	Ratcliff, H.	Pte.
Pratt, F. C.	Pte.	Pusey, S.	Pte.	Rathbone, H.	Corp.
Pratt, S.	A./Corp.	Putman, W.	Pte.	Rathke, M. T.	Pte.
Pratt, T.	Pte.	Putnam, W.	Pte.	Rattue, W.	Pte.
Pratt, T. E.	Pte.	Puttock, L.	Pte.	Raven, W. F.	L./Corp.
Pratt, T. F.	Pte.	Pye, W. F.	Pte.	Rawling, C.	Pte.
Prentice, J.	Pte.	Pym, E.	A./Corp.	Rawlings, W.	L./Corp.
Prestage, A. T.	Pte.			Rawlings, F. H.	Pte.
Prested, F. W. T.	Pte.	Quaife, E.	Pte.	Ray, A.	L./Corp.
Preston, D.	Pte.	Quenzer, A. E.	Pte.	Ray, W. C.	Pte.
Preston, G.	Pte.	Quickenden, G. A.	Pte.	Rayment, H.	L./Corp.
Prevotal, W. T.	Pte.	Quilty, P.	Pte.	Rayner, E. R.	Pte.
Price, A.	Pte.	Quinlan, J.	Pte.	Rayner, S. J.	Pte.
Price, A. J.	Pte.	Quinland, E.	Pte.	Rayner, W.	Pte.
Price, D.	Pte.	Quinn, E.	Pte.	Read, G. A.	Pte.
Price, E. G.	L./Corp.	Quinn, M.	L./Corp.	Read, W.	Pte.
Price, H.	Sergt.	Quinnell, G. F.	Pte.	Read, W. (7672)	Pte.
Price, H. V.	Pte.	Quinnell, H. J.	Pte.	Reade, V.	Sergt.
Price, T. F.	Pte.	Quinton, F. C.	L./Corp.	Rearden, W. W.	Pte.
Price, W. H.	Pte.			Record, P. S., M.M.	Pte.
Priddy, J. W.	Pte.	Rabey, H.	Sergt.	Reddick, A. P.	Pte.
Priddy, V. H.	Pte.	Rackham, G. R.	Pte.	Reddick, J. E.	Pte.
Prince, A.	Pte.	Radburn, P.	L./Corp.	Reddock, J. M.	Sergt.
Prince, C.	Pte.	Radcliffe, H.	Bdm.	Redgrave, A. E.	Pte.
Prince, R.	Pte.	Radford, A.	Pte.	Redgrave, W.	Pte.
Prior, G.	Pte.	Radford, F.	L./Corp.	Redman, E. C. G.	Pte.
Prior, G. (14224)	Pte.	Radford, T.	Pte.	Redman, W.	Pte.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 291

Redmile, A.	Pte.	Rice, H.	Pte.	Riley, W.	Pte.
Reed, H.	A./Corp.	Rice, H. V., M.M.	Pte.	Riley, W. B.	A./Corp.
Reed, L. D.	Pte.	Rice, J.	L./Corp.	Rimmer, J.	Pte.
Reed, W. H.	Pte.	Rice, J.	Pte.	Ring, G.	Pte.
Rees, W.	Pte.	Rice, R. R.	Sergt.	Risby, C. F.	Pte.
Reeson, W. H.	Pte.	Rice, S.	Pte.	Ritchie, H. C.	Pte.
Reeve, A.	Pte.	Rich, C.	Pte.	Rivers, H. S.	Corp.
Reeve, J. H.	A./L./Corp.	Rich, S.	Pte.	Rix, F. G.	Sergt.
Reeve, J. W.	Pte.	Richards, A. J.	L./Corp.	Rix, W.	Pte.
Reeve, S. P.	Pte.	Richards, E.	Pte.	Robbins, F.	Pte.
Reeve, T. A.	Pte.	Richards, J.	Pte.	Robbins, J. A.	Pte.
Reeve, W.	Pte.	Richards, K. A.	Pte.	Robbins, W.	Pte.
Reeve, W. J.	Pte.	Richards, W. L.	A./Sergt.	Roberts, A.	Pte.
Reeves, A.	Pte.	Richardson, C. V. L.	L./Sergt.	Roberts, A. E.	Pte.
Reeves, C. F.	Pte.	Richardson, E.	Pte.	Roberts, A. G.	Pte.
Reeves, S. E.	Pte.	Richardson, F.	Pte.	Roberts, F.	Pte.
Reeves, T.	Pte.	Richardson, H.	Pte.	Roberts, F. C. P.	Pte.
Reeves, W. G.	L./Corp.	Richardson, H. (25246)	Pte.	Roberts, G. R.	Pte.
Regan, D.	Pte.	Richardson, H.	Pte.	Roberts, J. F.	Pte.
Regan, J.	Pte.	Richardson, H. C.	L./Corp.	Roberts, T. W.	Pte.
Regan, J. (5072)	Pte.	Richardson, H. D.	Pte.	Roberts, W. A.	Pte.
Regan, T.	Pte.	Richardson, H. F.	A./Corp.	Roberts, W. R.	Pte.
Reid, G.	Pte.	Richardson, L. H.	Pte.	Robins, A.	Pte.
Reid, V.	Pte.	Richardson, P.	Pte.	Robins, S. G.	Pte.
Reid, W.	Pte.	Richardson, R. S.	Pte.	Robinson, C.	Pte.
Reid, W. E.	L./Corp.	Richardson, W. E.	Pte.	Robinson, C. T. J.	Pte.
Remnant, T. J.	Pte.	Richardson, W. R.	Pte.	Robinson, G. L.	Pte.
Rendell, J. H. W.	Pte.	Richardson, Y.	Pte.	Robinson, G. W.	Pte.
Renton, J. J.	Pte.	Richens, W. A.	L./Corp.	Robinson, H.	Pte.
Repton, A. G.	A./Corp.	Rickard, A.	Pte.	Robinson, J.	Sergt.
Reuben, S.	Pte.	Ricketts, A.	Pte.	Robinson, J. W.	Pte.
Revell, T.	Pte.	Ricks, G.	Pte.	Robinson, P.	Pte.
Revell, T. F.	Pte.	Ridcout, P. J.	Pte.	Robinson, S. J.	Pte.
Revels, P.	Pte.	Riddock, C.	Pte.	Robinson, S. T.	Pte.
Reynolds, A.	Sergt.	Riddy, C. G. F.	Sergt.	Robinson, T. W.	Pte.
Reynolds, A.	Pte.	Ridge, C. E. G.	Pte.	Robinson, W.	Pte.
Reynolds, A. J.	Pte.	Ridgewell, W. J.	Pte.	Robinson, W. A.	L./Corp.
Reynolds, C.	Pte.	Ridgway, A. C.	Sergt.	Robinson, W. J.	Dr.
Reynolds, E.	Pte.	Ridgway, C.	Pte.	Robson, F. G.	Pte.
Reynolds, E. F.	Pte.	Ridgway, E. A.	Pte.	Robson, T. J.	Pte.
Reynolds, G.	Pte.	Ridley, A. E.	Pte.	Roche, J.	Pte.
Reynolds, H.	Pte.	Ridley, F. J.	L./Corp.	Roche, W. S.	Sergt.
Reynolds, H. L.	Pte.	Ridley, W. G.	Pte.	Rochell, A. J.	Pte.
Reynolds, R. E. N.	Pte.	Ridout, A.	Pte.	Rochford, A. A.	Pte.
Reynolds, S. B. W.	Pte.	Ridoutt, G. M.	Pte.	Rodgers, G.	Pte.
Reynolds, T. J. M.	Pte.	Riley, C.	Pte.	Rodhouse, C.	Pte.
Reynolds, W. G.	Pte.			Rodway, J. C.	Pte.
Rhodes, A.	L./Corp.			Roe, P. G.	Pte.
Rice, A. R.	Corp.			Roffe, W. G.	Pte.

Roffey, T. S.	Pte.	Rostron, J.	L./Corp.	Ryan, B.	Pte.
Roffey, W. H.	Pte.	Rothery, A. C.	Pte.	Rycraft, R. W.	Pte.
Rogers, A.	Pte.	Rouse, C.	Pte.	Ryder, F.	Pte.
Rogers, A. H.	Pte.	Rouse, H. A.	Pte.	Ryder, F. C.	Pte.
Rogers, A. V.	Pte.	Rout, W.	Pte.		
Rogers, C. E.	Pte.	Rowe, A., M.M.	Corp.	Sadleir, G. H.	Pte.
Rogers, E. J.	Pte.	Rowe, A. S.	Pte.	Sadler, C.	Pte.
Rogers, E. J. (24931)	Pte.	Rowe, F. E.	Pte.	Sadler, G.	Pte.
Rogers, F.	Pte.	Rowe, H. H.	Pte.	Sadler, H. C.	Pte.
Rogers, G.	Pte.	Rowe, H. W. G.	L./Corp.	Sadler, W. A.	Pte.
Rogers, P. R.	Pte.	Rowe, S.	Pte.	Sale, G.	Pte.
Rogers, S.	Pte.	Rowe, W. C.	Corp.	Sales, L.	Pte.
Rogers, S. (5297)	Pte.	Rowe, W. H.	Pte.	Sales, W. J.	Pte.
Rogers, W.	Pte.	Rowell, H. E.	L./Corp.	Sallabanks, W. F.	Pte.
Rolfe, G.	Pte.	Rowland, A. A.	Pte.	Salmon, L. W.	Pte.
Rollins, F. J.	Pte.	Rowland, P.	L./Corp.	Saltmarsh, H.	Pte.
Rollinson, H.	Pte.	Rowley, D.	Pte.	Saltwell, C. J.	Pte.
Rollinson, J.	Pte.	Rowsell, W. J.	Pte.	Salvage, J. A.	Corp.
Rollinson, W.	Pte.	Royal, E., M.M.	L./Corp.	Samme, G. T.	Pte.
Rolph, F. W.	Pte.	Royce, H. P.	Pte.	Sampson, L. L.	Pte.
Romer, G. E.	Pte.	Rudd, J. F.	Pte.	Sams, A.	Pte.
Roof, A. J.	Pte.	Ruffles, C. W.	Pte.	Samson, H. E.	Pte.
Rooff, V. A.	Corp.	Rulton, A.	Pte.	Samuel, N. S.	Pte.
Rook, L. G.	Pte.	Rumbell, E. A.	Pte.	Samuels, S. G.	Pte.
Rook, V.	Pte.	Rumbold, W. C.	Pte.	Sanders, J.	L./Corp.
Rootes, C.	Pte.	Rummery, A. C.	Pte.	Sanders, L. W.	Pte.
Roots, C. W.	Pte.	Runciman, G. T.	Pte.	Sanderson, C. W.	Sergt.
Roper, W.	L./Corp.	Ruse, G. B., M.M.	Pte.	Sanderson, H.	Pte.
Rose, A.	L./Corp.	Rush, F. E.	Pte.	Sandford, E. A.	Pte.
Rose, A.	Pte.	Rushbridge, C.	Pte.	Sandford, J. H.	L./Corp.
Rose, A. (28133)	Pte.	Rushbrook, R.	Pte.	Sandford, W. J.	Sergt.
Rose, A. E.	Pte.	Rushmore, H.	Pte.	Sands, F.	Pte.
Rose, A. W.	Pte.	Russell, A. C.	Pte.	Sands, H.	Pte.
Rose, E.	Sergt.	Russell, B.	Pte.	Sandy, E.	Pte.
Rose, E. F.	Pte.	Russell, C.	Pte.	Sanger, T.	Pte.
Rose, F.	Pte.	Russell, C. C. L.	Pte.	Sapsed, T. A. G.	Pte.
Rose, F. W.	Pte.	Russell, D.	Pte.	Sapsford, E. T.	L./Corp.
Rose, H., M.M.	L./Corp.	Russell, E.	L./Corp.	Sargent, H. E.	Sergt.
Rose, H. G.	Pte.	Russell, E.	Pte.	Sartain, H. F.	Pte.
Rose, W. N.	Pte.	Russell, F.	Pte.	Saunders, G. H.	Pte.
Rosenbaum, A.	Pte.	Russell, G.	Pte.	Saunders, C. E.	Sergt.
Rosenwoud, A.	Pte.	Russell, H.	Sergt.	Saunders, C. H.	Pte.
Roser, A. H., D.C.M.	Sergt.	Russell, H. F.	Pte.	Saunders, C. P.	Pte.
		Russell, S.	Corp.	Saunders, G. C.	Pte.
Rosher, C. W.	Pte.	Russell, W.	L./Sergt.	Saunders, H. H.	Pte.
Rosher, C. W. (5298)	Pte.	Russell, W. G.	Pte.	Saunders, T. A.	Pte.
Rosier, C. W.	Pte.	Russell, W. H.	Pte.	Saunders, W.	Pte.
Roskell, R.	Pte.	Rutkin, H. C.	Pte.	Saunders, W. H.	Pte.
Roskilly, J. R.	Pte.	Rutter, A.	L./Corp.	Saville, R. W.	Pte.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 293

Saville, T. J.	Pte.	Searle, A.	L./Corp.	Sharpe, J. A.	Pte.
Sawyer, H.	Pte.	Searle, C.	A./Corp.	Sharples, C. E.	L./Corp.
Sawyer, J. R.	A./Corp.	Searle, E.	Pte.	Sharpless, W.	Pte.
Sawyer, T. E.	Pte.	Searle, F.	Pte.	Shaul, J.	Pte.
Sayer, C.	Pte.	Searle, G.	Pte.	Shave, A.	Pte.
Sayer, H. G.	L./Sergt.	Searle, G. H., M.M.		Shaw, A.	Pte.
Sayers, C. J.	Pte.		Corp.	Shaw, F.	Pte.
Sayers, D.	Pte.	Searles, W. J. S.	Pte.	Shaw, W. A.	L./Corp.
Scale, H.	Pte.	Sears, J.	Pte.	Shears, E. H.	Pte.
Scarf, C. K.	Pte.	Seaward, F.	Corp.	Sheasby, A.	Pte.
Scarff, W.	Pte.	Seaward, F. E.	Pte.	Sheath, F. C.	Pte.
Scarlett, W.	Pte.	Secker, H.	Pte.	Sheehan, J. H.	Pte.
Scholes, W. A.	Pte.	Secker, J. B.	Pte.	Sheldrick, T. E.	Pte.
Scillitoe, H.	Pte.	Seed, A. F.	Pte.	Shelley, E.	Pte.
Scoble, H.	Pte.	Seeley, W. H.	Pte.	Shelley, G.	Pte.
Scobell, T. H.	Pte.	Sekles, H.	Pte.	Shelley, W. G.	Pte.
Scoones, A. W.	L./Corp.	Selberg, L.	Pte.	Shelvey, A.	Sergt.
Scorey, J.	Pte.	Selby, E. C.	Sergt.	Sheperdon, W. J.	Pte.
Scotney, G. H.	Pte.	Selby, H.	Pte.	Shephard, E.	Pte.
Scott, A.	Pte.	Selby, H. W.	Pte.	Shephard, L.	Pte.
Scott, A. G.	L./Corp.	Self, C.	Pte.	Shepherd, A.	Pte.
Scott, A. T.	Pte.	Self, H. E.	Pte.	Shepherd, A. G. D.	Pte.
Scott, C. H.	Pte.	Self, W. J.	Pte.	Shepherd, A. H.	Pte.
Scott, D.	Pte.	Sellers, P.	L./Corp.	Shepherd, H. R.	Pte.
Scott, G. A. T.	Pte.	Sellwood, F. R.	Pte.	Sheppard, C. E.	Pte.
Scott, H.	Pte.	Selwood, W.	Pte.	Sheppard, C. H.	Pte.
Scott, H. (25219)	Pte.	Seward, A.	Pte.	Sheppard, E. E.	Pte.
Scott, H. W.	Pte.	Seward, J. R.	Pte.	Sheppard, G.	L./Corp.
Scott, J.	Pte.	Sewart, W.	Pte.	Sheppard, L.	Pte.
Scott, J. A.	Pte.	Sewell, C.	Pte.	Sheppard, P.	A./Sergt.
Scott, M.	Pte.	Sewell, W. R.	Pte.	Sherborn, G. R.	Pte.
Scott, P. J.	Pte.	Sexton, T. W.	Pte.	Sherriff, F.	Pte.
Scott, S.	Pte.	Seymour, A.	Pte.	Sherrin, T.	Pte.
Scott, T. G.	Pte.	Seymour, E., D.C.M.		Shettle, W. G.	Pte.
Scott, W.	Pte.		R.S.M.	Shew, A. R.	Pte.
Scott, W. (13258)	Pte.	Seymour, J.	Pte.	Shick, W.	Corp.
Scott, W. F.	Pte.	Shanks, W. P.	Pte.	Shilling, W. E.	Pte.
Scott, W. G.	Pte.	Sharan, A.	Pte.	Shillum, H.	Pte.
Scowen, R.	Pte.	Sharman, G. W.	Pte.	Shingler, H.	Pte.
Scrivens, E.	Pte.	Sharp, A. V.	Pte.	Shinn, W.	Pte.
Scutchings, E. J.	Pte.	Sharp, C.	Pte.	Shippam, A. C.	Pte.
Seabrook, G.	Pte.	Sharp, E.	Pte.	Shipstone, S. C.	Pte.
Seaby, E. C. H.	Pte.	Sharp, E. E.	Pte.	Shires, H.	Pte.
Seager, A. H.	Pte.	Sharp, G. E.	Pte.	Shirley, H. L.	Pte.
Seager, W. T.	Pte.	Sharp, G. R.	Pte.	Shoebridge, F. A.	Pte.
Seagrief, J. W.	Pte.	Sharp, G. W. J.	Pte.	Shooter, A. H.	Pte.
Seaman, F.	Pte.	Sharp, H.	Sergt.	Shooter, G. H.	Pte.
Seaman, R. J.	Pte.	Sharp, W.	Pte.	Shopland, A. J.	Pte.
Sear, H.	Pte.	Sharp, W. J.	Pte.	Shore, W. E.	L./Corp.

Short, E. F.	Pte.	Skinner, C.	Pte.	Smith, F. (17764)	Pte.
Short, G.	Pte.	Skinner, F. C.	Pte.	Smith, F. (8097)	Pte.
Short, T. W.	Pte.	Skinner, H.	Pte.	Smith, F. (7006)	Pte.
Short, W.	Pte.	Skipper, T. B.	Pte.	Smith, F. (31411)	Pte.
Shortland, R.	Pte.	Skittrall, H. J.	Pte.	Smith, F. C.	L./Corp.
Shovelin, J.	Pte.	Slann, L. G. H.	L./Corp.	Smith, F. C.	Pte.
Shrimpton, J.	Pte.	Slater, A.	Pte.	Smith, F. J.	L./Corp.
Shrubsall, F. A.	Pte.	Slater, P.	Pte.	Smith, F. J.	Pte.
Shults, J. C.	Pte.	Slaughter, F.	Pte.	Smith, G., M.M.	Pte.
Shuttleworth, F. T.	Sergt.	Slaughter, F. E.	Pte.	Smith, G.	Pte.
Sibley, A. J.	Pte.	Slaughter, W.	Pte.	Smith, G. (355)	Pte.
Sibley, H. G.	Pte.	Slawson, G. H.	Pte.	Smith, G. (11828)	Pte.
Sidey, E. R.	Pte.	Sleep, H. E.	Pte.	Smith, G. (30955)	Pte.
Siggers, J. E.	Pte.	Sleight, T. H.	Pte.	Smith, G. A.	Pte.
Siggins, J.	Pte.	Slinger, T.	Pte.	Smith, H.	L./Corp.
Silk, J. R.	L./Corp.	Slocombe, J.	Pte.	Smith, H. (2232)	L./Corp.
Sillitoe, A. J.	Pte.	Sloots, P. H.	L./Corp.	Smith, H.	Pte.
Silver, C.	Pte.	Smaggasgale, W.	Pte.	Smith, H. (10250)	Pte.
Simcoe, F., M.M.	L./Corp.	Small, E. C.	L./Corp.	Smith, H. (8225)	Pte.
Simmonds, F. A.	Pte.	Smallbridge, E.	Pte.	Smith, H. (6253)	Pte.
Simmonds, T.	Pte.	Smallpiece, H.	Pte.	Smith, H. A.	Pte.
Simmons, A. C.	Pte.	Smart, E.	Pte.	Smith, H. H.	Pte.
Simmons, C.	Pte.	Smile, W. H.	Pte.	Smith, H. J.	Sergt.
Simmons, G. R.	Pte.	Smith, A.	Pte.	Smith, H. W.	Pte.
Simmons, L.	Pte.	Smith, A. (8571)	Pte.	Smith, J., M.M.	Sergt.
Simmons, R. E.	Pte.	Smith, A. (9796)	Pte.	Smith, J.	Pte.
Simon, P., M.M.	Corp.	Smith, A. (355)	Pte.	Smith, J. (26125)	Pte.
Simonds, J. G.	Pte.	Smith, A. (28402)	Pte.	Smith, J. E.	Pte.
Simons, H. J.	L./Corp.	Smith, A. E.	Pte.	Smith, J. H.	L./Sergt.
Simons, J. E.	Sergt.	Smith, A. H.	Pte.	Smith, J. H.	L./Corp.
Simpkin, J. H.	Pte.	Smith, A. J.	A./Sergt.	Smith, J. H.	Pte.
Simpson, A.	Pte.	Smith, A. J.	Pte.	Smith, J. J.	Pte.
Simpson, F. W.	Pte.	Smith, A. J. (39835)	Pte.	Smith, J. W.	A./Corp.
Simpson, G. H.	Pte.	Smith, A. J. (17400)	Pte.	Smith, J. W.	Pte.
Simpson, J.	Corp.	Smith, B.	Pte.	Smith, J. W. (9568)	Pte.
Simpson, J.	Pte.	Smith, C.	Sergt.	Smith, L. G.	L./Corp.
Simpson, T. H.	Pte.	Smith, C. (1057)	A./Sergt.	Smith, L. H.	Pte.
Sims, H. T.	Pte.	Smith, C. J.	L./Corp.	Smith, M.	Pte.
Sims, R. J.	Pte.	Smith, C. W.	Sergt.	Smith, P.	Pte.
Sims, W.	L./Corp.	Smith, C. W.	Pte.	Smith, P. F.	Pte.
Sinnock, W.	Pte.	Smith, C. W. (30421)	Pte.	Smith, P. G.	Pte.
Sismey, E.	Pte.	Smith, C. W. G.	L./Corp.	Smith, P. L.	Pte.
Sivins, G.	Pte.	Smith, D.	Pte.	Smith, P. S.	Pte.
Skeels, R.	Pte.	Smith, E., M.M.	Pte.	Smith, R.	Pte.
Skeels, W. J.	Pte.	Smith, E.	Pte.	Smith, R. (8043)	Pte.
Skelton, E.	Pte.	Smith, E. (9030)	Pte.	Smith, R. (10209)	Pte.
Skiggs, H.	Pte.	Smith, E. H.	Pte.	Smith, R. W.	Pte.
Skingley, J.	Pte.	Smith, F.	Corp.	Smith, S.	Sergt.
		Smith, F.	Pte.	Smith, S.	Pte.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 295

Smith, S. (38039)	Pte.	Spencer, H., M.M.	Pte.	Stannard, W. (2031)	Pte.
Smith, S. G.	Pte.	Spencer, H. W. F.	Sergt.	Stannard, W.	Pte.
Smith, S. P.	Pte.	Spencer, S.	Pte.	Stanton, J. E.	Pte.
Smith, T.	L./Sergt.	Spice, W. H.	Pte.	Stapleton, F.	Pte.
Smith, T. A.	L./Corp.	Spicer, A. L.	Pte.	Stapley, E. B.	Pte.
Smith, V.	Pte.	Spicer, J.	Corp.	Starkey, F. H.	Pte.
Smith, W.	L./Corp.	Spicer, L.	Pte.	Starkey, J. E.	Pte.
Smith, W.	Pte.	Spier, W. E.	Pte.	Starling, A.	Pte.
Smith, W. (42152)	Pte.	Spiers, J.	Sergt.	Starr, G.	Pte.
Smith, W. (2404)	Pte.	Spiers, T.	Pte.	Steadman, A. L.	Pte.
Smith, W. (6742)	Pte.	Spink, E. H.	Pte.	Stearn, E. W.	Pte.
Smith, W. (8615)	Pte.	Spink, J. H.	Pte.	Stedeford, J.	Sergt.
Smith, W. E.	Pte.	Spink, T.	Pte.	Steele, C. J.	L./Corp.
Smith, W. H.	Pte.	Spire, H.	Pte.	Steele, R. P.	Pte.
Smith, W. J.	L./Corp.	Spittle, G.	Pte.	Steele, W. C.	Pte.
Smith, W. J.	Pte.	Spooner, A. C.	Pte.	Steene, A. G.	Pte.
Smith, W. J. (1471)	Pte.	Spooner, A. J.	Pte.	Steer, G. W.	Pte.
Smith, W. J. (201073)	Pte.	Spooner, A. J. (33513)	Pte.	Steers, A.	Pte.
Smithers, J. P.	Pte.			Steggles, C. R.	Sergt.
Snashall, S.	Pte.	Spooner, W.	Pte.	Stemp, J.	Pte.
Snazle, E.	A./Corp.	Spoor, T. W.	Sergt.	Stemps, A.	Pte.
Snook, H. R.	Pte.	Sprackling, P. D.	Pte.	Stenning, F. C.	Pte.
Snook, W.	Pte.	Sprague, R.	Sergt.	Stephenson, D. T.	Pte.
Soanes, A. A.	Pte.	Spray, W.	L./Corp.	Stephenson, J.	Pte.
Soanes, G. T.	Pte.	Spring, W.	Pte.	Stephenson, S. T.	Pte.
Sole, H. F.	Pte.	Springett, J. J.	Pte.	Steptoe, T.	Pte.
Solly, E.	Pte.	Springett, T. C.	Pte.	Stevens, C.	Pte.
Solomon, H. W.	L./Corp.	Spyree, J.	Pte.	Stevens, C. R.	Pte.
Somerset, T. A.	Corp.	Squance, W. J.	Pte.	Stevens, E. C. J.	Pte.
Songhurst, C. A.	Pte.	Stacey, A. H.	Pte.	Stevens, F.	Pte.
Songhurst, G.	Pte.	Stacey, F. W.	C./Sergt.	Stevens, F. (48227)	Pte.
Sorge, P. L. P.	Pte.	Stadden, W. J.	Pte.	Stevens, F. (23730)	Pte.
Sorrell, F. W.	Pte.	Stafford, H.	Pte.	Stevens, F. W.	Pte.
Sortwell, W.	Pte.	Stainer, A. E.	Pte.	Stevens, H.	L./Corp.
Souster, W.	Pte.	Staines, A. H.	Pte.	Stevens, H.	Pte.
South, G.	Pte.	Stait, A.	Pte.	Stevens, J.	Pte.
Southgate, J.	Pte.	Stanbridge, H. C.	Pte.	Stevens, J. (5899)	Pte.
Spall, J. P.	Pte.	Stanbridge, S.	Pte.	Stevens, R.	Pte.
Spanton, W.	Pte.	Standen, F. W.	L./Corp.	Stevens, T.	L./Corp.
Sparkes, J. W.	Pte.	Standen, W. J.	Pte.	Stevens, T. S.	Pte.
Sparkes, R. A.	Pte.	Standing, C. W.	Pte.	Stevens, W.	Pte.
Sparkes, W.	Pte.	Standring, F.	L./Corp.	Stevens, W. S.	Pte.
Sparks, J.	Sergt.	Staner, S.	Pte.	Stevenson, A.	Pte.
Sparling, J. W.	Pte.	Stanford, R. J.	Pte.	Stevenson, J.	Pte.
Sparrow, C. L.	Pte.	Stanhope, E. A.	Pte.	Stevenson, V.	Pte.
Sparrow, H.	Pte.	Stanley, F. E.	Pte.	Steventon, V. M.	Pte.
Speechley, J. W.	Pte.	Stanley, H.	Pte.	Steward, R.	Pte.
Speed, J.	Pte.	Stanley, J.	Pte.	Stickland, G. H.	Pte.
Speer, F. R.	Pte.	Stannard, A. G.	Pte.	Stiff, E. T.	Pte.

Still, J. A.	Pte.	Stunell, G.	L./Corp.	Talbot, W. J.	Pte.
Stilwell, H.	Pte.	Sturge, H. G.	Pte.	Talfourd, W. J.	Pte.
Stilwell, H. E.	Pte.	Sturgeon, J. R.	Corp.	Talkington, F.	L./Corp.
Stilwell, W. F.	L./Corp.	Sturgeon, R.	L./Corp.	Talman, J.	Pte.
Stimson, F.	Pte.	Sturgess, G.	A./Sergt.	Tame, H. J.	Pte.
Stimson, T. R.	Pte.	Sturgess, J.	Pte.	Tandy, B.	L./Corp.
Stockbridge, E. A.	Pte.	Sturt, J.	Sergt.	Tann, J. W.	Pte.
Stockbridge, W. J.	Pte.	Stutter, J.	Pte.	Tanner, E. H.	Pte.
Stockdale, F.	Pte.	Stygall, G. M.	Pte.	Tanner, E. S.	Pte.
Stocker, R. A.	Pte.	Sulley, G.	Pte.	Tanner, J.	C.S.M.
Stocker, S. E.	Pte.	Sullivan, A.	Corp.	Tanner, R. W.	Pte.
Stocks, A.	Pte.	Sullivan, A.	Pte.	Tanner, W. E.	Pte.
Stocks, T. H.	Pte.	Sullivan, A. C.	Pte.	Tapner, E.	Sergt.
Stokes, E. W.	Pte.	Sullivan, C. W.	Pte.	Tappenden, H.	Pte.
Stokes, F. A.	Pte.	Sullivan, E.	Pte.	Tapping, F.	Pte.
Stokes, F. R. A.	Pte.	Sullivan, E. P.	Pte.	Tarrant, A. P.	A./Sergt.
Stokes, J. T.	Pte.	Sullivan, F. G.	Pte.	Tasker, H. E.	Pte.
Stokes, L. J.	Pte.	Sullivan, J.	Corp.	Tasker, J. R.	Pte.
Stone, A. E.	Sergt.	Sullivan, J. D.	Pte.	Tattersall, B.	Pte.
Stone, E. A.	Pte.	Sullivan, M.	Pte.	Tawn, G. B.	Pte.
Stone, F. L.	Pte.	Sullivan, W.	Pte.	Taylor, A.	Sergt.
Stone, F. W.	Pte.	Summers, A.	Pte.	Taylor, A. (7215)	
Stone, H.	Pte.	Summers, E.	Pte.		A./Sergt.
Stone, L.	Pte.	Sumner, S. D. S.	Pte.	Taylor, A.	Pte.
Stone, S.	Pte.	Sumpter, W.	Pte.	Taylor, A. A.	Bdm.
Stonebridge, J.	Pte.	Surtees, R. B.	Pte.	Taylor, A. G.	Pte.
Stones, T.	Sergt.	Suter, E.	Pte.	Taylor, A. J.	Pte.
Stoodley, G. H.	A./Sergt.	Suttle, E.	Pte.	Taylor, A. M.	L./Corp.
Stopher, H.	Pte.	Sutton, D., M.M.	Pte.	Taylor, A. R.	Pte.
Storer, G.	Pte.	Sutton, H. C.	Pte.	Taylor, A. S.	Sergt.
Storey, E. G.	Pte.	Sutton, J. E.	Pte.	Taylor, A. V.	Pte.
Stovold, J.	Corp.	Sutton, W. H.	Pte.	Taylor, C. J. S.	Pte.
Stowell, R.	Pte.	Sutton, W. W.	Pte.	Taylor, E.	Pte.
Strachan, F.	Pte.	Swan, J. F.	Pte.	Taylor, E. (11571)	Pte.
Strachan, F. H.	Pte.	Swann, W.	Pte.	Taylor, E. (5947)	Pte.
Strachan, J.	Pte.	Swannell, J. R.	Pte.	Taylor, F.	Pte.
Stratton, T. R. J.	Pte.	Sweet, F. C.	Pte.	Taylor, F. A.	Pte.
Stray, G.	Pte.	Sweet, S.	Corp.	Taylor, F. E.	Pte.
Stredwick, E. H.	Pte.	Sweeting, J. W.	Pte.	Taylor, F. H.	Pte.
Streeter, G. H.	Pte.	Sweetland, J.	Pte.	Taylor, G.	Pte.
Streeter, W.	Pte.	Sweetman, E.	L./Corp.	Taylor, G. (10506)	Pte.
Stretten, H.	Pte.	Sweetman, W. J.	Pte.	Taylor, G. (18023)	Pte.
Stretton, C.	Pte.	Swinfield, S.	L./Corp.	Taylor, G. C.	Pte.
Stevens, A. F.	Pte.	Swingwood, J. W.		Taylor, G. F.	Pte.
Stride, E.	L./Corp.		L./Corp.	Taylor, G. H.	Pte.
Strong, B. C.	Pte.	Symonds, E. B.	Pte.	Taylor, H.	Pte.
Stroud, W. G.	A./Sergt.	Sympson, W. G.	Pte.	Taylor, H. (12596)	Pte.
Strutton, E.	Pte.	Syms, C.	Pte.	Taylor, H. G.	Pte.
Stubbs, J. M.	Pte.	Syrett, S. C.	Pte.	Taylor, H. H.	L./Corp.

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 297

Taylor, H. J.	Pte.	Thompson, G. (4242)	Pte.	Tiller, H.	Pte.
Taylor, H. J. (6545)	Pte.	Thompson, G. J.	Pte.	Tilley, C. T.	Pte.
Taylor, J.	L./Corp.	Thompson, G. M.	Pte.	Tillman, A. G.	Pte.
Taylor, J.	Pte.	Thompson, J. R.	Pte.	Tilston, E.	Pte.
Taylor, J. (4189)	Pte.	Thompson, R.	Pte.	Tiltman, A. V.	Pte.
Taylor, J. H.	Pte.	Thompson, R. H.	Pte.	Timpson, G.	Pte.
Taylor, J. R.	Pte.	Thompson, S.	Pte.	Timson, B. C.	L./Corp.
Taylor, L. R.	L./Corp.	Thompson, T. H.	Pte.	Tindell, A.	L./Corp.
Taylor, S.	Pte.	Thompson, W.	Pte.	Tinker, W. H.	Pte.
Taylor, S. L.	Pte.	Thomson, D. H.	Pte.	Tinker, W. T.	L./Corp.
Taylor, S. W.	Pte.	Thomson, S. E.	Pte.	Tinley, J. F.	Pte.
Taylor, T.	Pte.	Thomson, W. L.	Pte.	Tinsley, C. E.	Pte.
Taylor, T. R.	Pte.	Thorn, F.	Pte.	Tinsley, R.	Pte.
Taylor, V. J.	Pte.	Thorn, H. A.	Pte.	Tinson, G. V.	Pte.
Taylor, W. H.	Pte.	Thorn, H. J.	Pte.	Tipper, H. J.	Pte.
Taylor, W. T.	Pte.	Thornby, E. J.	Pte.	Tippett, S.	A./Sergt.
Tebbutt, S. A.	Pte.	Thorne, G.	Pte.	Tippins, C. J.	Corp.
Teniers, R.	Pte.	Thornhill, J. P.	Pte.	Tisdale, S. H.	Pte.
Terrell, F. J.	Pte.	Thornton, A. E.	Pte.	Titchener, W.	Pte.
Terry, H. G.	Pte.	Thornton, T. C.	Pte.	Titcombe, A.	L./Corp.
Terry, H. J.	Pte.	Thorogood, G. O.	Pte.	Titman, H.	Pte.
Tester, C.	Pte.	Thorogood, T.	Pte.	Todd, F.	Sergt.
Tester, F. J.	Pte.	Thorpe, A. J.	Pte.	Todd, F.	Pte.
Tettmar, V. D.	Pte.	Thorpe, F.	Pte.	Todd, W. J.	Pte.
Thacker, C. P.	Pte.	Thorpe, H.	Pte.	Tofery, G. W.	Sergt.
Thacker, H.	Pte.	Thorpe, H. J.	Pte.	Toft, M.	Pte.
Thake, W. R.	Pte.	Thring, W. H.	Pte.	Tofts, W.	Pte.
Thane, R. J.	Pte.	Thripp, A. E.	Corp.	Tolley, R. C.	Corp.
Thatcher, A. C.	Pte.	Thrusell, C.	Pte.	Tolman, C.	Pte.
Thatcher, H. J. S.	Pte.	Thunder, J. E.	Pte.	Tomalin, A.	Pte.
Theedon, E. R., M.M.	A./Sergt.	Thurley, W. R.	Pte.	Tomkins, F.	Pte.
Theobald, E.	Pte.	Thurlo, J. R.	Pte.	Tomlin, H.	Pte.
Thomas, A. S.	Pte.	Thurlo, R. J.	Pte.	Tomlin, J.	Pte.
Thomas, H. C.	Pte.	Thurnell, A. J.	L./Corp.	Tomlinson, C.	Pte.
Thomas, H. O.	Pte.	Thynne, W. J.	Pte.	Toms, C. A. G.	A./Sergt.
Thomas, J.	Corp.	Tibbenham, E. G.	Pte.	Toms, C. C.	Pte.
Thomas, J.	Pte.	Tibbitts, W. A.	Pte.	Toms, C. W.	L./Corp.
Thomas, J. J.	Pte.	Tibbles, C.	Pte.	Toms, J. E.	Pte.
Thomas, S.	Pte.	Tibbs, H. E.	Pte.	Tomsett, A.	Pte.
Thomas, W.	Pte.	Tibbs, J.	Corp.	Tondeur, A. F.	Pte.
Thomas, W. (651)	Pte.	Tichborne, R.	Pte.	Toogood, T. W.	Pte.
Thomason, T.	Pte.	Tickner, A.	Pte.	Took, B.	Pte.
Thomasson, W. W.	Pte.	Tickner, A. E.	Pte.	Topcott, A. J.	Pte.
Thompson, A. A.	Pte.	Tickner, F.	Pte.	Topping, A.	Pte.
Thompson, A. W.	Pte.	Tidey, F. E.	Pte.	Toten, E. W., M.M.	L./Corp.
Thompson, E. S.	Pte.	Tidy, A. J.	Pte.	Towle, H. A.	Pte.
Thompson, F. A.	Pte.	Tilbury, W. J.	Pte.	Towler, A. E.	Pte.
Thompson, G.	Pte.	Tilbury, W. P. A.	Pte.	Townsend, C. H.	L./Corp.
		Tillbrook, G.	Pte.		

Townsend, D.	Pte.	Turner, A. E.	Pte.	Usher, J.	Pte.
Townsend, H.	Pte.	Turner, A. O.	Pte.	Valante, G.	Pte.
Townsend, J.	Pte.	Turner, C.	Pte.	Valentine, W.	Corp.
Tracey, J.	Corp.	Turner, C. B.	L./Corp.	Vallas, W.	L./Corp.
Trapp, C. E.	Pte.	Turner, E.	L./Corp.	Varney, J.	Pte.
Treadaway, A.	Sergt.	Turner, E. E.	Pte.	Varnham, S. A.	Pte.
Treadle, G.	Pte.	Turner, E. G.	Sergt.	Vaughan, F. B.	Pte.
Treby, C. G.	Pte.	Turner, F.	Pte.	Vaughan, H. D.	Pte.
Treeby, E.	Pte.	Turner, H.	L./Corp.	Veal, W. W.	Pte.
Treffrey, G.	Pte.	Turner, H.	Pte.	Veale, G.	Pte.
Tremeer, W.	Pte.	Turner, H. C.	Pte.	Vear, J. V.	L./Corp.
Tremlett, T. J.	Pte.	Turner, H. T.	Corp.	Venables, A. E.	Corp.
Trenfield, F. H.	Pte.	Turner, J. G.	Pte.	Verrell, W. J. J.	Corp.
Trevett, D. J.	Pte.	Turner, R.	Pte.	Verriez, J. P.	Pte.
Trevor, J. O.	Pte.	Turner, T. E.	C.S.M.	Vessey, H.	Pte.
Tribe, G. H.	Pte.	Turner, W.	Pte.	Vickers, C. J. W.	Pte.
Trickey, J. J.	L./Corp.	Turney, H. J.	Pte.	Vickery, W.	Pte.
Triggs, C.	Pte.	Turnill, N.	Pte.	Vidler, G.	Sergt.
Trigwell, H. H.	Pte.	Turrell, F. G.	Pte.	Vidler, H.	Pte.
Trim, A. E.	Pte.	Turrington, A.	Pte.	Viles, G. F.	Pte.
Trim, A. J.	Pte.	Turton, B. A.	Pte.	Vinall, A.	Pte.
Trimby, J. C.	Pte.	Turvey, W. C.	Pte.	Vince, W.	Pte.
Tripp, J.	Pte.	Tustin, W.	Corp.	Vincent, H. V.	Pte.
Tromans, C.	Pte.	Tutty, J. C.	Pte.	Vincent, J. V.	Pte.
Trott, J. A.	Pte.	Tweedale, A.	Pte.	Vincent, L. S.	Corp.
True, W. G.	Pte.	Tween, W., M.M.	Pte.	Viner, A. V. G.	Pte.
Truelove, F.	Pte.	Twilley, H.	Pte.	Vinnicombe, R.	Pte.
Trunfull, R. C.	Pte.	Twyford, A.	Pte.	Voice, T. H.	Pte.
Truss, A. E.	Pte.	Twyford, W.	Pte.	Voller, T.	Pte.
Trustam, E. A.	L./Corp.	Tyler, C. H.	Pte.	Vosper, B. E.	Pte.
Tubbs, W. H.	Pte.	Tyler, G.	Pte.	Wadds, W. J.	Pte.
Tubman, H.	Pte.	Tyler, G. (30597)	Pte.	Wade, J. H.	Pte.
Tucker, C. S.	Pte.	Tyler, R.	Pte.	Wade, S.	Pte.
Tucker, J. A.	L./Corp.	Tyler, S. J.	Pte.	Wadeson, F. W.	Pte.
Tuckwell, F. T.	A./Corp.	Tyrrel, H. E.	Pte.	Wadsworth, H.	Pte.
Tufnell, J. G.	Corp.	Tyrrell, A. O.	Pte.	Wager, W. S.	Pte.
Tugwell, F. J.	Pte.	Tyrrell, F. C.	Pte.	Wagner, C.	C.S.M.
Tugwell, W.	Pte.	Tyson, B. C.	Pte.	Wagstaff, T. W.	Pte.
Tull, F. C.	Pte.	Tyson, W.	Pte.	Wagstaff, W. J.	Sergt.
Tullett, F. E.	Pte.	Ulyet, H. E.	Pte.	Wakefield, I. M.	Pte.
Tullett, H.	Pte.	Underhill, F. W.	Pte.	Wakeford, F. A.	Pte.
Tumber, R. W.	Pte.	Underwood, A.	Pte.	Wakeman, G. W.	Pte.
Tunmore, S. F.	Pte.	Underwood, C.	Corp.	Waland, W. H.	Pte.
Tunmore, W.	Pte.	Underwood, G. J.	Pte.	Walburn, F. J.	Sergt.
Turk, P. C.	Pte.	Underwood, H.	L./Corp.	Walcroft, T.	Pte.
Turnbull, A.	L./Sergt.	Ungless, H. C.	Pte.	Walker, A. A.	Pte.
Turner, A.	Pte.	Upham, J.	Pte.	Walker, A. P.	L./Corp.
Turner, A. (16104)	Pte.	Urmston, N.	Pte.		
Turner, A. (28965)	Pte.				

EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 299

Walker, F. J.	L./Corp.	Ward, W. G.	Pte.	Watson, S.	Pte.
Walker, H.	Pte.	Wardell, J.	Pte.	Watson, W.	Pte.
Walker, R. H.	Pte.	Ware, R. C.	Pte.	Watson, W. T.	Pte.
Walker, W.	Pte.	Ware, R. G.	Pte.	Watts, A.	Pte.
Walker, W. (10514)	Pte.	Ware, R. I.	Pte.	Watts, A. (33235)	Pte.
Walker, W. (25654)	Pte.	Wareham, C. H.	Pte.	Watts, A. E., M.M.	Pte.
Walker, W. H.	Pte.	Warinton, F.	Pte.	Watts, C. R.	Pte.
Walker, W. H. (33365)	Pte.	Warman, W., D.C.M.	Pte.	Watts, F.	Pte.
Walker, W. T.	Pte.	Warner, A. J.	Pte.	Watts, J.	Pte.
Wall, A. E.	Pte.	Warner, C.	Pte.	Watts, L. H.	Pte.
Wallace, G. W.	Pte.	Warner, E.	Pte.	Watts, R. J.	Pte.
Wallace, J. H.	Pte.	Warner, T. H.	Pte.	Watts, W.	Pte.
Wallace, J. T.	Pte.	Warner, V.	C.Q.M.S.	Watts, W. (9934)	Pte.
Waller, A.	Pte.	Warner, W. H.	Pte.	Watts, W. C.	Pte.
Walliker, A. H.	L./Corp.	Warnes, J. H.	Pte.	Weatherley, F.	Pte.
Wallis, F.	Pte.	Warr, E. M.	C.S.M.	Weatherley, S.	Pte.
Wallis, H. F.	Pte.	Warr, R.	Pte.	Weaver, E. W.	Pte.
Wallis, J. A.	Pte.	Warran, F.	Pte.	Weaver, W. A.	Pte.
Wallis, W. G.	Pte.	Warren, A.	Pte.	Webb, A.	Pte.
Walsam, H. B. W.	Pte.	Warren, E.	Pte.	Webb, A. H. J.	Pte.
Walsh, T.	Pte.	Warren, E. (22486)	Pte.	Webb, A. M.	Pte.
Walters, A.	Pte.	Warren, H.	Pte.	Webb, B. E.	Pte.
Walters, A. (240160)	Pte.	Warren, J. H.	Pte.	Webb, D. B.	Pte.
Walters, A. H.	Pte.	Warren, W.	L./Corp.	Webb, D. C.	L./Corp.
Walters, J.	L./Corp.	Warrington, H.	Pte.	Webb, F.	Pte.
Walton, E. W.	Pte.	Warwick, W.	Pte.	Webb, F. (5104)	Pte.
Walton, F.	Pte.	Washer, G. T.	Pte.	Webb, F. G., M.M.	Sergt.
Walton, G. F.	Pte.	Wassell, G. J.	Pte.	Webb, F. W.	Corp.
Walton, J. T.	Sergt.	Waterfield, A.	Pte.	Webb, F. W.	Pte.
Walton, S.	Pte.	Waterfields, W. O.	Pte.	Webb, J. C.	Pte.
Walton, W.	Pte.	Waters, A. R.	Pte.	Webb, J. R.	Corp.
Walton, W. E.	Pte.	Waters, J. P.	L./Corp.	Webb, T. J.	Pte.
Warburton, R.	Pte.	Waters, T. J.	Pte.	Webb, T. H.	Pte.
Warby, W.	Pte.	Waters, W. R.	Pte.	Webb, W. G.	L./Corp.
Ward, C. E.	Pte.	Watford, J.	Pte.	Webber, E. R.	L./Corp.
Ward, C. E. (200917)	Pte.	Watkins, F. J.	L./Corp.	Weber, F.	Pte.
Ward, C. W.	Pte.	Watkins, J. H.	Sergt.	Webster, A.	Pte.
Ward, E. W.	A./Sergt.	Watkins, J. S.	Pte.	Webster, A. (203331)	Pte.
Ward, F.	Pte.	Watkins, T.	Pte.	Webster, C. F.	Pte.
Ward, F. (17692)	Pte.	Watkins, W. C.	Pte.	Webster, G.	Pte.
Ward, G.	Pte.	Watkinson, E.	Corp.	Webster, H.	Pte.
Ward, G. F.	Pte.	Watling, G.	Pte.	Webster, J.	Pte.
Ward, J.	Pte.	Watling, S. J.	Pte.	Webster, L.	L./Corp.
Ward, J. B.	Pte.	Watson, A.	Pte.	Wedlake, W. J.	Pte.
Ward, L. C.	C.Q.M.S.	Watson, A. W.	Pte.	Weed, J. T.	Pte.
Ward, P. C.	Pte.	Watson, C.	Pte.	Weeding, A.	Pte.
Ward, U. W.	Pte.	Watson, J. J.	Pte.	Weedon, J.	Pte.
Ward, W. C.	Pte.	Watson, R. V.	Pte.	Weeks, W.	Pte.
				Weight, F. M.	Pte.

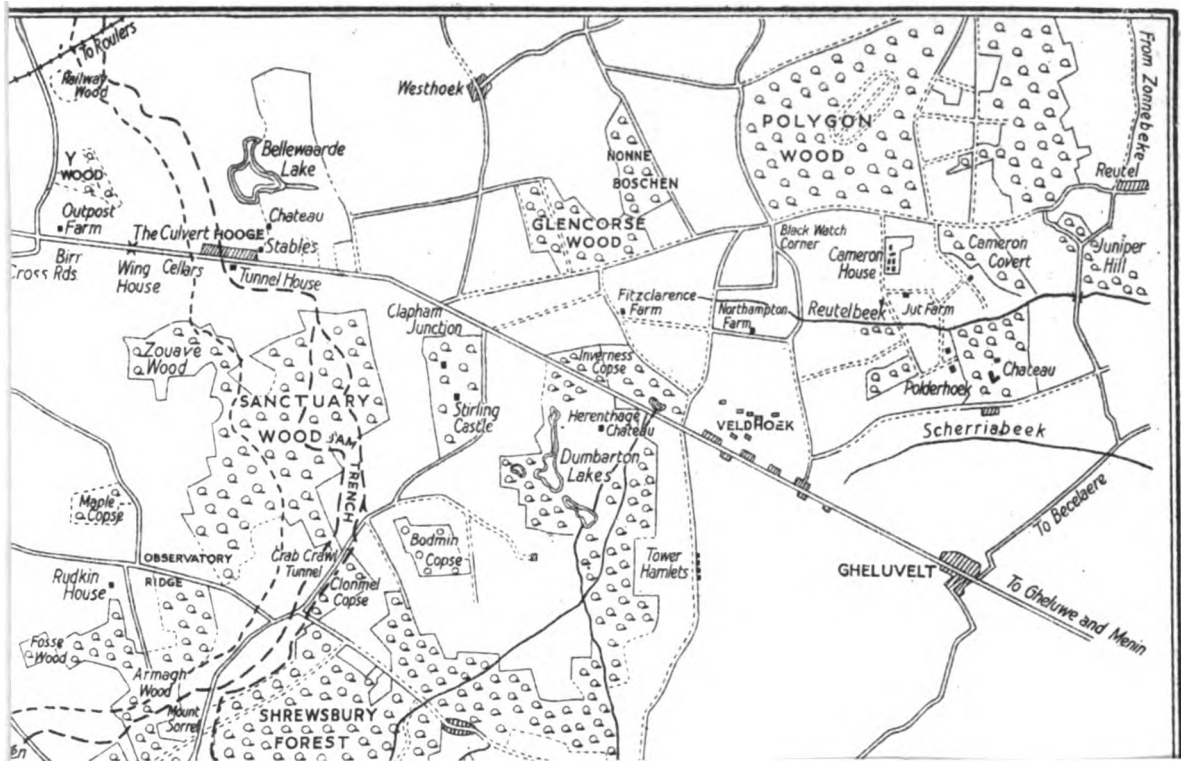
Weight, J. J.	Pte.	Weston, D.	Pte.	White, G. J.	Corp.
Weight, M.	Pte.	Wetter, J.	Pte.	White, H.	Pte.
Weigold, G. W.	Pte.	Whall, H.	Pte.	White, J.	L./Sergt.
Welch, F. W.	Pte.	Wharram, J.	Pte.	White, J.	Pte.
Welch, G. H.	Pte.	Whatrup, W.	L./Corp.	White, J. C.	Pte.
Welch, V.	Sergt.	Wheatley, F. W.	Pte.	White, M.	Pte.
Wellbelove, E.	Pte.	Wheatley, T. W.	Pte.	White, R. C.	Pte.
Wellby, J. D.	Pte.	Wheatley, W.	Pte.	White, S.	Pte.
Weller, C.	Corp.	Wheatley, W. J.	L./Corp.	White, S. J.	Pte.
Weller, G. A.	Pte.	Wheaton, J.	Pte.	White, T. C.	L./Corp.
Weller, H. W.	Pte.	Whebell, W. J.	Corp.	White, T. W.	Pte.
Weller, W.	Pte.	Wheeler, A.	Pte.	White, T. W. (25668)	Pte.
Wellings, T.	Corp.	Wheeler, A. A.	Pte.	White, T. W. G.	Pte.
Wellington, H. H.	Pte.	Wheeler, A. J.	Pte.	White, W.	Pte.
Wells, A.	Pte.	Wheeler, A. P.	Pte.	White, W. (9722)	Pte.
Wells, A. G. D.	Pte.	Wheeler, D. M.	Pte.	White, W. (9748)	Pte.
Wells, B. C.	L./Corp.	Wheeler, F. A.	L./Corp.	White, W. (2894)	Pte.
Wells, C.	C.S.M.	Wheeler, J.	Pte.	White, W. J.	Pte.
Wells, E. J.	Pte.	Wheeler, J. E.	Pte.	White, W. J. (9625)	Pte.
Wells, G. W.	Pte.	Wheeler, R.	Pte.	White, W. W., M.M.	C.S.M.
Wells, H.	Pte.	Wheeler, R. G.	Pte.	White, W. W.	Pte.
Wells, H. (3025)	Pte.	Wheeler, T. E.	Pte.	Whitehand, C. L.	Pte.
Wells, T.	L./Corp.	Wheeler, W. J.	Pte.	Whitehead, H. H.	Pte.
Wells, T.	Pte.	Wheildon, W.	Pte.	Whitehead, H. W. W.	Pte.
Wells, W.	Pte.	Whelan, T.	Pte.		
Wells, W. (5732)	Pte.	Whenlock, C.	Pte.	Whitehead, J.	Pte.
Welsh, R.	Pte.	Whiddington, W. H.	Pte.	Whitehead, S.	Pte.
Welsh, W.	Pte.	Whiffen, A. J.	Pte.	Whitehead, T.	Pte.
Welsted, A. F.	Pte.	Whiley, F.	Pte.	Whitehead, G.	Pte.
Wenborn, C. F.	Pte.	Whipp, F.	Pte.	Whitfield, S.	Pte.
Wenham, A.	Pte.	Whistle, B.	Pte.	Whiting, C. A.	Pte.
Wenham, H.	Pte.	Whistler, C. E.	Pte.	Whiting, C. W.	Pte.
Wenham, R. J.	L./Corp.	Whitbread, J.	Pte.	Whiting, E. F.	Pte.
Wernham, G.	L./Corp.	Whitby, J.	Pte.	Whiting, H. E.	Pte.
Wessell, G. S.	L./Corp.	White, A.	Pte.	Whiting, H. N.	Pte.
West, A. J.	L./Corp.	White, A. (7227)	Pte.	Whiting, R. W.	Pte.
West, A. R.	Pte.	White, A. J.	Pte.	Whitlam, R.	Pte.
West, C.	Pte.	White, B.	L./Corp.	Whitley, P. H.	Pte.
West, G. E.	Pte.	White, C.	Pte.	Whittaker, H.	Pte.
West, J.	Pte.	White, C. H.	Pte.	Whittemore, F.	Pte.
West, J. W.	Pte.	White, D. A.	Pte.	Whittington, F. L.	Pte.
West, P. H.	Pte.	White, E.	Pte.	Whyld, W. H.	Pte.
West, T. F.	Pte.	White, E. J.	L./Corp.	Whyman, R.	Pte.
West, W. E.	Pte.	White, F.	Pte.	Wickenden, T.	Pte.
Westbrook, G.	Pte.	White, F. (28728)	Pte.	Wickens, A. W.	Pte.
Westbrook, R.	Pte.	White, F. A.	Pte.	Wickens, H. P.	Pte.
Westbury, F.	Pte.	White, G.	Pte.	Wickens, T. S. A.	Pte.
Weston, A.	Pte.	White, G. A.	Pte.	Wicker, A. J.	Pte.
Weston, A. V.	L./Corp.	White, G. H.	Pte.		

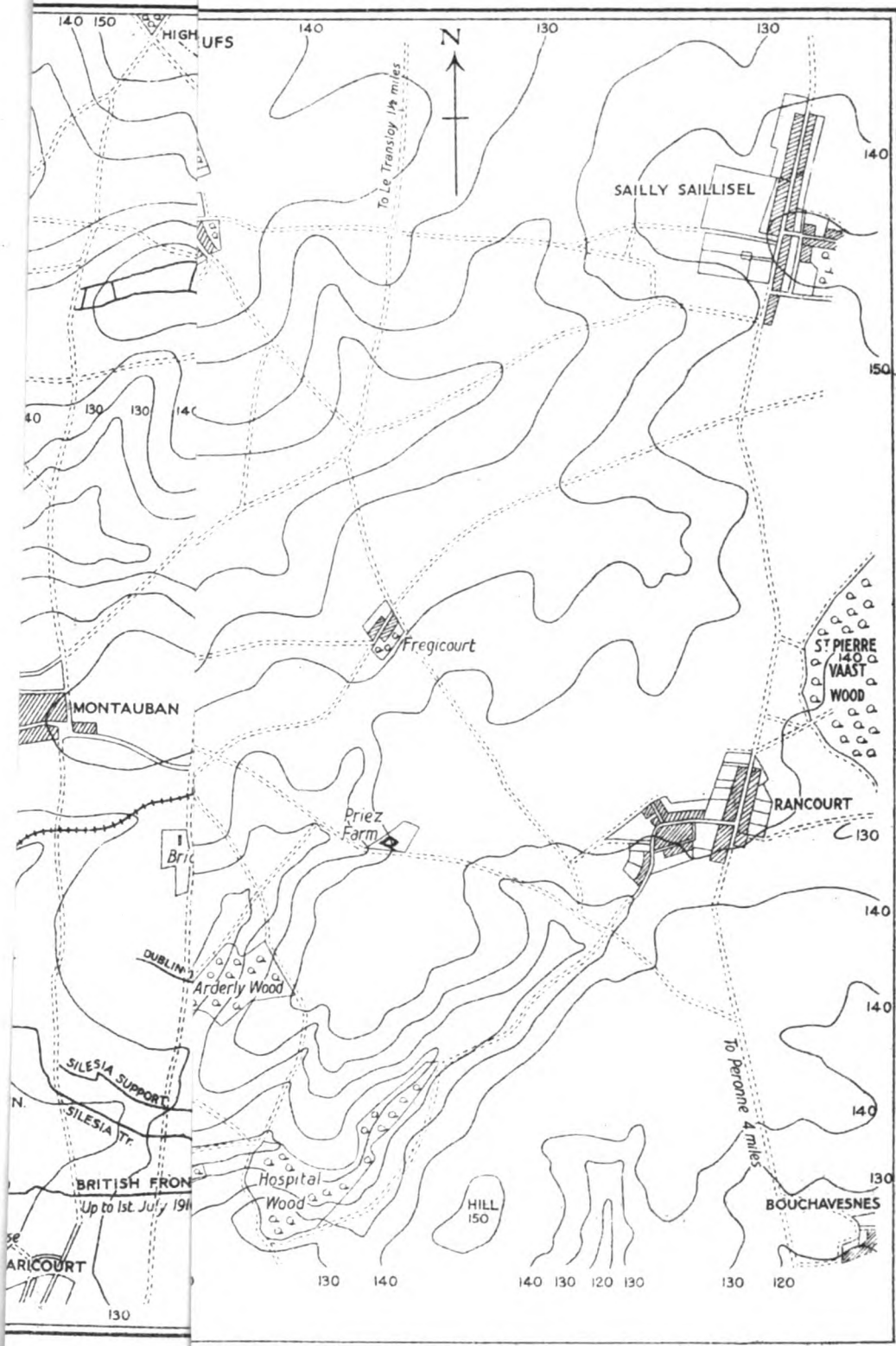
EAST SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR 301

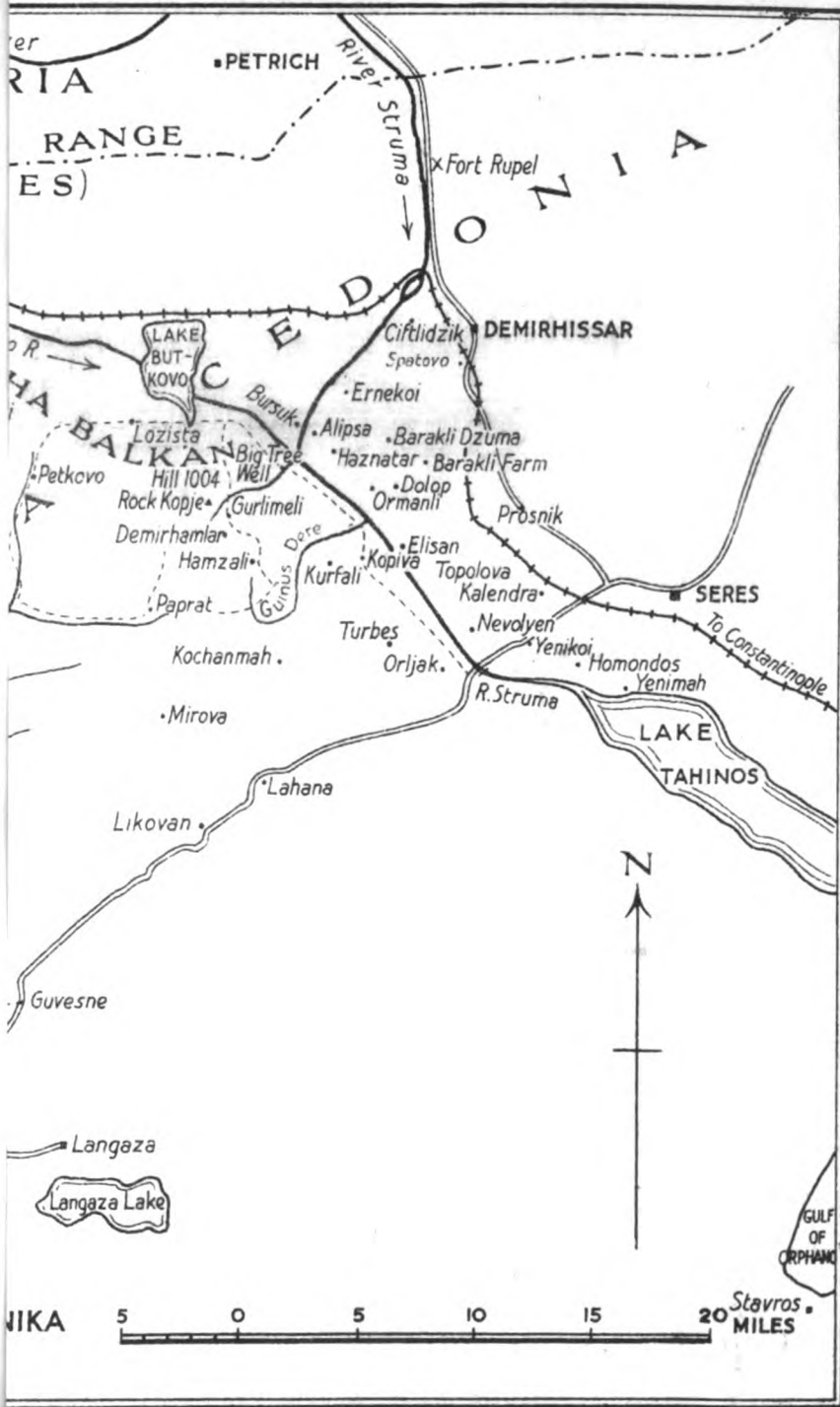
Wickins, J.	Pte.	Williams, S.	Pte.	Wilson, S. (8648)	Pte.
Wicks, G.	Pte.	Williams, T.	Pte.	Wilson, S. W.	Pte.
Wicks, J.	A./Sergt.	Williams, T. G.	Pte.	Wilson, T. E.	Pte.
Wiggins, F. V.	Pte.	Williams, W. A.	Corp.	Wimble, A.	Pte.
Wiggins, H.	Pte.	Williams, W. C.	L./Sergt.	Winchurch, F. W.	Pte.
Wiggins, W.	Pte.	Williams, W. G.	Pte.	Windebank, F.	Pte.
Wiggins, W. T.	Pte.	Williamson, H. A.	Pte.	Windsor, J. H.	Pte.
Wilbrey, E.	L./Corp.	Williamson, H. D.	Pte.	Windsor, P. H.	Pte.
Wilby, F.	Pte.	Williamson, J.	Pte.	Windsor, W.	Sergt.
Wilby, T.	Pte.	Willimott, P.	Pte.	Winfield, A. G.	Pte.
Wilcock, B.	Pte.	Willis, A. F.	Pte.	Winfield, F. A.	Pte.
Wild, B. T. G.	Pte.	Willis, F.	L./Corp.	Wing, F. T.	L./Corp.
Wild, W.	L./Corp.	Willis, G. F.	Pte.	Wing, G., M.M.	L./Corp.
Wildash, W. E.	Pte.	Willis, J.	Pte.		
Wilde, A. T.	Pte.	Willis, W.	Pte.	Wingrove, G. A.	Pte.
Wilkin, A. V.	Pte.	Willis, W. H.	Pte.	Winkworth, H. W.	Pte.
Wilkin, P. J.	Pte.	Willmott, J. A.	Pte.	Winsor, C. H.	Pte.
Wilkins, E. W.	Pte.	Willoughby, J.	Pte.	Winter, A. M.	Pte.
Wilkins, H. W.	Pte.	Willows, G. F.	Pte.	Winter, F.	Pte.
Wilkins, V. J.	Corp.	Wills, F.	Pte.	Winter, F. G. H.	A./Corp.
Wilkins, W. G.	Pte.	Wills, S. A.	Pte.		
Wilkinson, B.	Sergt.	Willsha, G. J.	Pte.	Winter, H.	Pte.
Wilkinson, F. D.	Pte.	Willsmore, R. J.	Pte.	Winter, T. G.	Pte.
Wilkinson, H. E.	Pte.	Willson, V. H.	L./Corp.	Winters, W. A.	Pte.
Wilkinson, H. H.	Pte.	Willmore, A. E.	L./Corp.	Wise, D. W.	Pte.
Wilkinson, H. O.	Pte.	Wilmot, B.	Pte.	Wise, R. H.	Corp.
Wilkinson, J. J.	Pte.	Wilmot, C. H. P.	Pte.	Wiseman, E.	Pte.
Wilks, H.	Pte.	Wilmot, J. W.	Pte.	Witham, L. S.	Pte.
Willets, F. C.	Pte.	Wilshire, H. C.	Pte.	Witney, E. A. W.	Pte.
Willey, L. F.	Pte.	Wilson, A.	L./Corp.	Wolstenholme, J.	Pte.
Willgress, F. E.	Pte.	Wilson, A.	Pte.	Wood, A., M.M.	L./Sergt.
William, S.	Pte.	Wilson, A. (19394)	Pte.		
Williams, A.	Pte.	Wilson, C. H.	Pte.	Wood, A.	Pte.
Williams, A. E.	Pte.	Wilson, D. C.	Pte.	Wood, A. (28204)	Pte.
Williams, A. M.	Pte.	Wilson, F.	Pte.	Wood, A. (42129)	Pte.
Williams, C.	Pte.	Wilson, F. (3204)	Pte.	Wood, A. F.	Pte.
Williams, C. (11423)	Pte.	Wilson, G. L.	C.S.M.	Wood, C.	Pte.
Williams, D. J.	Pte.	Wilson, G. S.	Pte.	Wood, C. (11710)	Pte.
Williams, E.	Pte.	Wilson, G. T.	Pte.	Wood, C. A.	Pte.
Williams, E. E., M.M.	L./Corp.	Wilson, G. T. T.	Pte.	Wood, E.	Pte.
		Wilson, H.	Pte.	Wood, E. (34300)	Pte.
Williams, E. G.	Pte.	Wilson, H. (10518)	Pte.	Wood, E. A.	L./Corp.
Williams, F.	Pte.	Wilson, J.	Pte.	Wood, H. E.	Pte.
Williams, F. C.	A./Sergt.	Wilson, J. (49290)	Pte.	Wood, I.	Pte.
Williams, G.	Pte.	Wilson, J. F.	L./Corp.	Wood, J.	L./Corp.
Williams, J.	Pte.	Wilson, P. G.	Pte.	Wood, J. A.	Pte.
Williams, J. (19341)	Pte.	Wilson, R.	Pte.	Wood, L.	Pte.
Williams, M. J.	Pte.	Wilson, R. H.	Pte.	Wood, R.	Pte.
Williams, S., M.M.	Corp.	Wilson, S.	Pte.	Wood, R. H.	Pte.

302 ROLL OF MEN OF E. SURREY REGT. WHO DIED IN GREAT WAR

Wood, V. C. S.	Pte.	Woolford, W. T.	Pte.	Wright, L.	Corp.
Wood, W.	Pte.	Woolgar, H. G. C.		Wright, R. C. B.	Pte.
Wood, W. (332)	Pte.		L./Corp.	Wright, R. W.	Pte.
Wood, W. A.	Pte.	Woolgar, S. H.	Pte.	Wright, W.	L./Corp.
Wood, W. C.	Pte.	Woolgar, W. A. F.	Pte.	Wright, W. J.	Pte.
Wood, W. H.	L./Corp.	Woolger, W. J.	C.Q.M.S.	Wright, W. W.	Pte.
Wood, W. H.	Pte.	Woolhouse, W.	Pte.	Wrigley, J.	Pte.
Wood, W. J.	Pte.	Woollard, T. E.	Pte.	Wyatt, C. C.	Pte.
Woodall, W. J.	Pte.	Woolley, A. G.	Pte.	Wyatt, F.	Pte.
Woodcock, A.	Pte.	Woolley, H.	Corp.	Wyatt, F. (19138)	Pte.
Woodend, J.	Pte.	Woolnough, C. V.	Pte.	Wyatt, H.	Pte.
Woodford, A.	Pte.	Woolward, W.	Sergt.	Wyatt, J.	Pte.
Woodgate, J. F.	Pte.	Wooster, G. H.	L./Corp.	Wyatt, T. G.	L./Corp.
Woodham, C. W.	Sergt.	Wooton, J. T.	Corp.	Wyburgh, W. J.	Pte.
Woodham, G.	Pte.	Wootten, J. P.	Pte.	Wye, F. W.	Pte.
Woodhams, J.	Pte.	Worboys, F. C.	Pte.	Wyeth, A. F.	Pte.
Woodhams, J. H.	Pte.	Worby, E. C.	Pte.	Wyeth, E. C.	L./Corp.
Woodhams, R.	Pte.	Worley, A.	Pte.	Wyeth, H.	Pte.
Woodhead, C.	Pte.	Worley, J.	Pte.	Wyndham, C.	L./Corp.
Woodhouse, C. H.	Pte.	Worrell, H.	Pte.	Yateman, W. T.	Pte.
Woodhouse, J. W.	Pte.	Worsford, F. G.	Pte.	Yates, C. E.	Pte.
Woodison, E.	Pte.	Worsfold, W.	L./Corp.	Yates, G.	Pte.
Woodman, F.	Pte.	Worsfold, W. H.	Pte.	Yeo, S.	A./Corp.
Woodman, R. A.	Corp.	Worthington, G.	Pte.	Yeoman, R. S.	L./Corp.
Woodroffe, E. J.	Pte.	Wrangham, E. W.	Pte.	Yirrell, F.	Pte.
Woods, A. C.	Corp.	Wray, D. E.	Pte.	York, J. A.	Pte.
Woods, A. W.	Pte.	Wray, S.	Pte.	York, S. W.	Pte.
Woods, D. A.	Pte.	Wren, A. H.	Pte.	Youlden, J. K.	Pte.
Woods, G. S.	Pte.	Wren, T.	L./Corp.	Young, E. A.	Pte.
Woods, P.	Pte.	Wright, A. W.	Pte.	Young, E. W.	Pte.
Woodward, A. W.	Pte.	Wright, C. P.	Pte.	Young, F. J.	Pte.
Woodward, J.	Pte.	Wright, D. R.	Pte.	Young, G.	Pte.
Woodward, N. L.	Pte.	Wright, E.	Pte.	Young, G. (38131)	Pte.
Woodward, W.	Pte.	Wright, E. P.	Pte.	Young, G. (1398)	Pte.
Woodward, W. F.		Wright, G.	Pte.	Young, W.	Pte.
	A./L./Sergt.	Wright, G. (13515)	Pte.	Young, W. (23224)	Pte.
Woodward, W. S.	Pte.	Wright, G. A.	Pte.	Young, W. A.	Pte.
Woodyard, W. A.	Pte.	Wright, G. E.	Pte.	Younger, R. W.	Pte.
Woolcote, C. F.	Pte.	Wright, H.	Pte.		
Wooldridge, F.	Pte.	Wright, H. W.	Pte.	Zander, A. C.	L./Corp.







ON THE SALONICA FRONT

